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WORLD OF SPORT

TODAY

Swiss may repay Jewish groups in 'goodwill gesture'

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK
The government of Switzerland, which compelled its tiny Jewish community to support Jewish refugees during World War II, is leaning in favor of a proposal to reimburse the international Jewish

'Swiss Banks extended WWII', Page 3

Swiss bank shares weakened by boycott fears, Page 8

agencies that came to the rescue, sources in Switzerland said yesterday.

The proposal was made by the Swiss Jewish community and would be a 'goodwill gesture' by the Swiss government, one source said.

Swiss Jews, since 1938, had been forced to look after the refugees in Switzerland and to cover the costs of sending them to other countries. The local community was able to raise 10 million Swiss francs from among the 5,000 Swiss Jews who had jobs. Another \$1.44m. for refugees aid came from Jewish philanthropic agencies, primarily the Joint Distribution Committee, according to a study by Swiss historian Jacques Picard.

Switzerland's general war-time policy had been to bar refugees. To this end, it initiated the plan to mark German Jews' passports with the distinctive 'J,' so that they could be easily identified - and turned away - at the border.

Body of Egyptian infiltrator found

IDF trackers yesterday discovered the body of one of five men who infiltrated from Egypt on Friday. The man had apparently fallen from a cliff south of Mitzpe Ramon. The tracks of the five infiltrators, believed to be drug smugglers, were discovered along the border south of Mt. Harif. The search for the four still at large is continuing. (Itm)



US special envoy Dennis Ross gestures at PA Chairman Yasser Arafat during a meeting between them at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem yesterday where Ross made further attempts to complete a deal on redeployment in Hebron. (Reuters)

Mordechai: Syria keeping open diplomatic, military options

LIAT COLLINS

SYRIA has not abandoned the diplomatic tack, but neither has it given up the military option, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He stressed the need to reduce the tension with Syria and said Israel is not interested in heating up the Syrian front. Mordechai also emphasized that Israel has no direct or indirect connection with the terror attacks against Syria either there or in Lebanon.

According to an official briefing, Mordechai

also said that in recent months several plane-loads of arms had been delivered to the Revolutionary Guards and Hizbullah in Lebanon via Syria.

He noted that predictions that Hizbullah activities would increase after the US election had proven accurate.

He rejected Likud MK Gideon Ezra's suggestion that Israel unilaterally pull out of

southern Lebanon and said it would 'bring terror to the northern border settlements and greatly endanger IDF soldiers. This situation could bring about a deterioration leading to larger operations in Lebanon and should be opposed.'

Mordechai said any agreement with Lebanon must include 'three elements: Lebanese deployment along the border; disarming Hizbullah; and finding a solution acceptable to the South Lebanese Army and security zone residents.'

Syria: Bombing aimed at changing our Israel policy

KUWAIT (AP) - The New Year's Eve bus bombing in Damascus was aimed at Syria's policy toward Israel, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said in an interview published yesterday.

He renewed his country's accusation that Israel was responsible for the blast, which killed 11 people and injured more than 40.

'It is a political explosion, not just a group of people committing an ordinary crime,' he told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Rai Al-Amm in an interview in Paris. 'We are convinced that Israel is behind it... and the day will come when we make public all the facts.'

Khaddam declined to give any details about the investigation into the explosion, which occurred at a Damascus bus station. The Syrian government did not comment on the explosion for two days.

He did not elaborate on his views of the political motives for the blast. But an official Syrian statement last Thursday said it came 'amid the escalation of Israeli threats by a number of Israeli officials lately aiming to kill the peace process.'

Israel rejected the accusations as 'sheer nonsense.' There have been no claims of responsibility for the incident.

Although there has been no official word on arrests, Al-Rai Al-Amm reported on Saturday that the Syrian driver of the bus has been detained. He allegedly left the bus minutes before it exploded with the excuse that he had forgotten some papers at the nearby bus station.

Asked about the possibility of a military confrontation between Syria and Israel, Khaddam said: 'Resorting to exploding the military situation will carry great risks for everybody, and it would not be a picnic for anyone.'

He added that the 'world is worried,' and this would 'suppress' the risk of war.

Study: Overwork is not an addiction

JUDY SIEGEL

If you work 12 hours a day or more - and love it - you are overworked, but probably not an 'addicted' workaholic, according to researchers at Haifa's Technion.

A team headed by Dr. Dov Zohar, of the industrial engineering and management department, was surprised to find that work does not share the elements of addiction that the physical or emotional need for tobacco, alcohol or other drugs has.

Workaholicism was defined 25 years ago by clinical psychologists. But according to the medical definition, addiction is measured by overuse, compulsion, lack of control, a feeling that one lacks free will and a longing for one has given up the desirable object.

When Zohar translated these terms relevant to workaholicism, he suggested that it meant being on the job 12 hours a day or more; having a compulsive urge to work and a feeling that one must always be working; and, if not, one feels guilty; and longing for working when going on vacation or on weekends off.

Examining 1,000 people working in high socioeconomic professions, the researchers found that 8.6 percent of them put in a 12-hour work day. They found that the overworkers did not meet two of the three factors necessary for addiction: longing and obsession.

'This puts a big question mark on the theory that working long hours is an addiction, and means that the term 'workaholic' coined by a US clinical psychologist in 1971 - is not apt,' Zohar said.

He noted, however, that the study, a preliminary one, doesn't mean that there aren't people suffering from real problems from being too obsessed by their work.

He added that 'the research points to a positive phenomenon: People who work 12 hours a day or more, compared to a control group, are more involved in their work and see it as a challenge and personal fulfillment. Thus the conclusion is that these hard workers work more from positive reasons, and not from negative, uncontrollable factors.'

The team even found that these overworkers did not suffer from more stress or pressure than those who worked normal hours.

However, all is not rosy. The main victims of overwork are

often the spouse and children. 'There is less family solidarity, according to reports by relatives of the overworked,' said Zohar, who plans a follow-up study of these families.

Double deficit

THE Treasury yesterday released its preliminary estimate of the 1996 budget deficit, placing it at NIS 14.4 billion - nearly double what the previous government had projected.

Full report, Page 8

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US to make compromise pullback bid

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE US is reportedly proposing a compromise on the third IDF pullback from the territories. It is suggesting this occur 'somewhere in between' the Palestinian demand for a September date and the spring 1999 time frame that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat during their early Sunday morning meeting.

It remains unclear whether the US proposal would be the midway point between the two dates - the summer of 1998 - or whether the US has another date in mind.

US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross shuttled between Arafat in Bethlehem and Netanyahu in Jerusalem yesterday, holding two meetings with each, including one with the premier that continued past midnight. Officials believe that Ross will leave within the next few days if he does not convince the two sides to reach a compromise on this critical issue.

'Dennis has made it clear that he does not want to be a prisoner of the peace process,' one official said.

'I remain hopeful we will see an agreement soon, but I can't predict when,' Ross said after meeting with Arafat.

There is an Israeli assessment that the US has linked wrapping up an agreement to its invitation to Arafat to visit President Bill Clinton sometime around the end of the month, but this could not be confirmed. The US has told the Palestinians that failure to conclude a deal will get Arafat's relations with Secretary of State-designate Madeleine Albright 'started

on the wrong foot.'

The US has pointedly not linked Netanyahu's invitation to a deal, officials in Jerusalem said, but it seems clear that Clinton would prefer the deal be completed before Netanyahu's visit.

There were signals last night that, to deepen its commitment to both Israelis and Palestinians, the US is considering going beyond attaching a 'Note for Record' or 'road map' that lists each side's commitments to the other that go beyond the Hebron accord. Rather, either instead of or in addition, the US would write 'letters of assurance' to each side, as it did on the eve of the 1991 Madrid peace conference. It should be noted that these letters have never been revealed to the other side.

In the meantime, sources said that the first IDF pullback this spring will include two percent of the West Bank, which would be transferred from the Israeli-controlled Area C to Area B, where the Palestinians are responsible for public order, but Israel retains overriding security control. Area B now includes about a quarter of the West Bank, while Palestinian-controlled Area A is about 3%.

It remains unclear whether Israel can unilaterally designate the first pullback or whether it will be the subject of negotiations.

However, the issue that has been holding up the Hebron pact has been on the mandated third pullback beyond Hebron itself. According to Oslo 2, Israel is expected to pull back from everything but settlements and 'specified military locations.' Palestinian negotiators interpret (Continued on Page 9)

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THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK OF ISRAEL

Mordechai: No joint patrols at Cave of Machpela

THERE will be no joint patrols in the area around the Cave of Machpela, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

He said the civil and security aspects of the Hebron agreement had been concluded, written down and accepted by top Palestinian officials, including Abu Mazen, Yasser Abed Rabbo and Jibril Rajoub. But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat have yet to reach an agreement on further redeployments, which is now the main bone of contention.

Mordechai promised there would be no joint patrols in the area of the Cave. He said an agreement had been reached on widening Shuhada Street, where it runs close to Jewish homes. The work will be carried out by US engineers, together with Israelis and Palestinians, and will include a sidewalk and good lighting.

"I believe the formula will be reached which will enable the Jewish community near the street

LIAT COLLINS

to live its daily life while gradually opening the road for municipal purposes within Hebron." Mordechai told parliamentary reporters. "The intention is to widen the road and that is part of the agreement itself."

The road widening is expected also to provide a means of removing Jewish houses from the range of light weapons fire from the street. Mordechai said the IDF is acting to reduce friction between the Jewish and Arab residents in the city and warned of extremism on both sides.

Mordechai rejected a suggestion by a Meretz leader Yossi Sarid to disband IDF Heshder units, in which students combine their religious studies with military service. He said: "Heshder soldiers obey their commanding officers, not their rabbis."

In answer to a question, he said both the General Security Service and the IDF acts to identify extremists and prevent their enlistment.

Outside the committee room, Mordechai answered a question

about the banners along the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway presumed to be put up by right wing extremists condemning him personally. "I'm a Likud member and act according to the government's guidelines. No poster will move me," he said.

Herb Keiron adds:

Hebron settlement leaders were unconvinced by the details of the Hebron agreement Mordechai presented.

"We believe the agreement presented by Mordechai is the first step toward the destruction of the Jewish community in Hebron," said settlement spokesman Moshe Ben-Zimra.

The agreement does not answer two problems that bother the settlement a great deal, Ben-Zimra said, namely "snipers from the hilltops, and the storming of the Jewish compounds by thousands of Arabs."

Ben-Zimra said the settlement has still not "despaired" of stopping the agreement, and is now concentrating its efforts on lobbying cabinet ministers against the plan.

Settler leaders accuse Palestinians of massive building campaign

HERB KEIRON

THE Palestinians, taking a leaf out of the settlers' playbook, are building "settlements" in Israeli-controlled areas in the territories in an attempt to create facts on the ground before further redeployment talks begin, settlement leaders said yesterday.

Yechiel Leiter, a spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said at a Jerusalem press conference that the Palestinian Authority is behind a surge of illegal building taking place in Area C, which is under Israeli jurisdiction, in order to create land-links that will lay the groundwork for a Palestinian state.

"There is no statehood without continuity," Leiter said.

By building in a way that connects the areas under Palestinian authority, the Palestinians are readying themselves for a state, he said.

The purpose of the building, Leiter said, is to "create irreversible facts on the ground" and

effectively take control of strategic parts of Area C prior to talks on further redeployment.

"They are trying to create large population centers to preempt the negotiations," he said.

Council director-general Aharon Domb said that over the last five months the council has documented the beginning of construction of some 1,000 units in areas under Israeli control.

This building is illegal, Domb said, because all construction in this area requires government approval.

Fifty percent of this building is taking place in the Hebron Hills area, Domb said. Much of the rest is taking place along various bypass roads, which creates a security hazard, he said.

"Pretty soon all the bypass roads won't bypass anything," Domb said. "And all the money that went to build them will have been wasted."

"The Arabs are doing what we

used to do," Elkana Local Council head Nisan Slomiansky said.

Slomiansky said this illegal construction has intensified since Benjamin Netanyahu became prime minister, because "under Labor they [the Palestinians] assumed they would get everything. They have discovered that this may not be the case, and now are fighting for every piece because they know that the facts on the ground will dictate the agreements."

Samaria Regional Council head Aryeh Ofri said that what the council demands is reciprocity, and that plans and permits are required of every Arab home going up in Area C, just as they are required of every Jewish home.

Ofri said that the civil administration is preparing files against those building illegally, but cannot destroy the illegal homes without a political decision being made. The political level, he said, keeps telling the settlement council that the issue is "under advisement."

LIAT COLLINS

sure on Israel." One settlement activist said that the decision was taken out of the council's realization that its goals of expanding settlements can be better served by demonstrating in support of the government, rather than protesting against it.

Peace Now spokesman Alon Aron said in response, "This is the tenth time that the council has said it is taking to the streets, and the public does not respond. Most of the country supports peace, the Oslo accords and withdrawal from Hebron."

In an major announcement of its activities for last year, Hizbullah yesterday declared on its TV station that 1996 was "the year of the resistance," during which its "holy fighters" carried out more than 750 operations in which 29 IDF soldiers and 47 of its own men were killed.

It also broadcast a warning directly to the IDF's elite Egoz unit. The statement, apparently aimed at undermining the moral of the troops, said members of the IDF might think they know the field, but "we are every rock, tree, and plant."

The statements followed a French news agency report that the IDF has recently beefed up its artillery and armor in the security zone. There was no confirmation of the report from other sources.

The NRP can't be allowed to become the hostage of the Hebron agreements," said NRP faction chairman Hanan Porat at a special meeting on the subject yesterday.

Jerusalem Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert was also present. He said that from the planning viewpoint there is no reason to hold up the Har Homa project.

The NRP MKs are asking to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the subject of building in Jerusalem, and the party's two ministers - Zevulun Hammer (Education) and Yitzhak Levy (Transportation) - will raise the issue in the next cabinet meeting.

The MKs said they would create a caucus with members of both the opposition and the coalition to lobby for construction in Jerusalem, and for the Har Homa project in particular.

"The NRP hopes it won't be necessary to take demonstrative protest steps on the issue of building in Jerusalem, which enjoys a wide consensus as the Israeli capital, and on its future unity," said Porat.

The party will participate in a public campaign for construction in Jerusalem, which plans to hold tours of the proposed project in Har Homa. "Heaven forbid it should appear that the building in Jerusalem has been frozen," Porat said.



MK Yossi Beilin greets supporters at yesterday's Tel Aviv rally kicking off his campaign for the Labor Party leadership. (The Associated Press/Israel Sun)

Beilin opens bid for Labor leadership

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MK Yossi Beilin kicked off his campaign for the Labor Party leadership last night with a scathing attack on his rival MK Ehud Barak.

Speakers at Beilin's campaign opening, at a large gathering at Tel Aviv's Ha'aretz Museum, included Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg; Yitzhak Frankenthal, leader of the religious-Zionist movement Netivot Shalom; Dr. Zvi Valdman, Shimon Peres's daughter; and Dr. Zvi Moses, of Karmel Shomron, who said many settlers support Beilin, who is the only one who can be a bridge between them and the secular left.

The number of supporters exceeded the organizers' expectations and Beilin had to apologize

to many hundreds who couldn't get in to the 520-seat hall.

Beilin lashed out at Barak for his suggestion that further IDF redeployment in the West Bank be postponed, a statement which had aroused the wrath of almost everyone in Labor's Knesset faction earlier in the day.

"The choice is not between a chief of staff and a Ph.D., or between a macho and a nerd," Beilin said, referring to the term often used to describe him. "It's a choice between two different ways, between the one who started the Oslo process and one who suggests prolonging

the interim agreement and who wouldn't support the agreement Yitzhak Rabin presented to the government in September 1995."

Beilin challenged Barak to a series of public debates on topical issues before the June primaries.

MK Haim Ramon intends to announce his support for Beilin immediately after the party's convention tomorrow, at which the issue of whether to hold open or closed primaries is to be decided. Ramon conditioned his running for the party leadership on having open primaries, an option which the convention is expected to reject. In any case, Ramon has already started canvassing for Beilin.

Third Way opposes Eitan-Beilin talks

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way opposes the talks between Labor MKs, led by Yossi Beilin, and Likud MKs, led by Michael Eitan, which are an attempt at finding common ground on the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians.

"We are against the trend to fill the vacuum created by the lack of a [government] plan with the program being drawn up by Beilin and Abu Mazen. We are asking that the talks between the MKs be postponed until the coalition and government has finalized its own program." Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel said.

"I don't like being told who I may and may not talk to," Eitan

countered. "I've never found that talking with each other has been harmful. And I find the suggestion very strange."

Eitan complained that Harel's charge that he was working on the basis of the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan is incorrect, saying: "I would never support this line." Eitan has stressed that he does not accept Beilin's ideas on Jerusalem or his call for creating a Palestinian state.

Harel later apologized to Eitan. He also said the Third Way insists that any further redeployments include only the transfer to the Palestinians of areas A and B and

said the party would not accept any concessions in the Jordan Valley.

The coalition MKs agreed to continue their own discussions on the permanent arrangements.

In the Labor faction meeting in the Knesset yesterday, MK Ehud Barak's suggestion that the dates for the further redeployment be postponed raised some opposition among his colleagues. Barak suggests carrying out the third redeployment in another two years, instead of in eight months as required by Oslo. Barak said reaching an agreement on the

postponed redeployment would allow the prime minister to overcome his fear of handling the negotiations on the permanent arrangements after most of the territory has already been handed over to the Palestinians.

MKs Hagai Merom and Haim Ramon, both identified with Beilin's camp, rejected the idea, as did MK Ephraim Sneh, who along with Beilin has announced his candidacy against Barak for the Labor Party leadership.

They said any delay in implementing Oslo could cause more unrest in the territories and said Barak is playing into Netanyahu's hands.

Hizbullah takes a look back at '96

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH is intensifying its psychological war against the IDF and South Lebanese Army as well as escalating its attacks on the security zone.

In an major announcement of its activities for last year, Hizbullah yesterday declared on its TV station that 1996 was "the year of the resistance," during which its "holy fighters" carried out more than 750 operations in which 29 IDF soldiers and 47 of its own men were killed.

It also broadcast a warning directly to the IDF's elite Egoz unit. The statement, apparently aimed at undermining the moral of the troops, said members of the IDF might think they know the field, but "we are every rock, tree, and plant."

The statements followed a French news agency report that the IDF has recently beefed up its artillery and armor in the security zone. There was no confirmation of the report from other sources.

In fact, UNIFIL officers said they had not observed any unusual IDF movements.

The security zone was relatively quiet yesterday, with only one incident reported - a mortar attack on an SLA post near Soujoud. There were no casualties and IDF gunners responded with artillery fire at suspected Hizbullah positions north of the zone.

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee, meanwhile, met at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura. The committee, composed of representatives from America, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, opened discussions on complaints by Israel and Lebanon. In its statement, Hizbullah said that "even the enemy has acknowledged that its intelligence-gathering capabilities have been severely effected by the Islamic Resistance's countermeasures, in particular the dismantling of intelligence cells. The Islamic

Hizbullah's claims

Hizbullah's television station in Lebanon yesterday presented the following list of "achievements" for 1996:

- A total of 75 roadside bomb attacks against IDF and SLA infantry and armored patrols and convoys, as well as on SLA personnel.
- 135 assaults on IDF and SLA positions.
- 60 ambushes of IDF and SLA troops, including patrols, convoys, and troop rotation details.
- Two suicide bombings.
- Hundreds of long-range shelling of IDF and SLA positions.
- Four IDF tanks destroyed.
- 29 IDF soldiers killed.
- 47 Hizbullah gunmen killed.
- Several "key enemy commanders and (SLA) collaborators tracked down and attacked."

David Rudge

Resistance, by openly entering into a war with such a powerful and sophisticated army, has changed the equations in the region.

Roadside bombs were the most successful, pain-inflicting method used by the resistance," the Hizbullah announcement said.

Hizbullah's figures correspond roughly to those of the IDF,

according to which 27 soldiers were killed in south Lebanon last year, more than half as a result of roadside bombs, while the number of Hizbullah attacks averaged just over two a day. The number of Hizbullah fatalities, however, is believed to be higher than that officially acknowledged by the organization.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PM meets with Turkish parliamentarians

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met a seven-member Turkish parliamentary delegation yesterday, which included two members of Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's Islamic Welfare Party called Rafah.

The meeting marked the highest-level contact between Rafah members and the government. Soon after Netanyahu came to office this past summer, he offered to meet Erbakan, only to be rebuffed. Before coming to office, Erbakan had threatened to sever the nascent Turkish-Israeli military links, in a bid to move closer to radical Arab and other Moslem states. However, the powerful Turkish military dissuaded Erbakan from following through on his threats.

David Makovsky

Four officers to be tried for negligence

IDF chief prosecutor Brig.-Gen. Ori Shoham has ordered four officers be court-martialed on charges of negligence in the death of a soldier last June. The soldier was electrocuted when his radio antenna hit a high tension wire. Assaf Avni was killed last June 30 while on a training exercise during a communication's officers course. He was carrying the platoon radio on his back when his extended antenna hit a live electricity line.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Rabin Memorial Law passes

The Knesset passed yesterday the Law for Yitzhak Rabin's Memorial by a vote of 42-1. The objection was by Benny Elon (Moledet). The memorial will include archives, a memorial site, and a research institute in Rabin's name.

The law does not determine where the center will be, although it is known that the association which will operate it prefers a site in the Reading area of Tel Aviv.

Liav Collins

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather
HENRY POHORYLES 57

The funeral took place on Monday, January, 6, 1997 at the Vatikim cemetery, Netanya

Families: Pohoryles
Dovek
Adler
Fierman
Dahan
Tiffenbeck

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
MARTIN KISSINGER 57

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, January 7, 1997, at the Herzliya cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

Wife: Ruth Kissinger
Children: Tamara Delman
Micky and Rina Kissinger
Sister: Erna Esther Ramati
Grandchildren: Einat, Ruli, Dafi and families
Meidat and Dana
Great-grandson: Itamar

With deep regret we announce the passing of our beloved mother
SARAH EATMAN

Rachael 71 and Hilal Schechter
Shoshana and leadore Bleiberg
Hadassah Tzivia and Menachem Freimark
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سازمان اطلاعات

Loan scams target immigrants

BATSHEVA TSUR

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani has ordered the police to look into allegations that swindlers have been preying on new immigrants by offering them fictitious loans for a charge, following a complaint by MK Sofia Landver (Labor).

Landver said last night she plans to introduce legislation that will make it easier to get loans so that people will not be easy prey for swindlers.

The suspected scam came to light after a new immigrant, who had applied for a housing loan last week, came to Landver in tears.

"The woman, Asia Valesky of Bat Yam, was swindled out of NIS 950 when she applied for the loan," Landver said. "She was short NIS 20,000 for an apartment and answered an ad in the Russian-language press offering easy loans. When she came to collect the money, after paying the down payment, there was no loan and she couldn't get her deposit back."

Landver opened the Russian-language papers and saw numerous classified ads offering loans "within 24 hours." She also noticed that it is possible to "buy" guarantors for Jewish Agency loans and that other ads offer people who are leaving the country NIS 10,000 to act as "guarantors."

She then decided to apply to one such company herself.

"I called a company that advertised itself as Abdim Finansit, at 47 Rehov Ben-Yehuda in Tel Aviv. I asked to speak to the director, but he was not in. After several calls, I was referred to Avi in another company, known as Capital," she said.

Avi was also never in when Landver called, but a clerk told her she could get a loan for NIS 50,000, within two or three days, in return for a NIS 300 registration fee and 2 percent of the amount of the loan.

"They asked whether I worked and I said I had worked six months earlier. When they told me to bring my pay slip, I said I hadn't kept it and they said it didn't matter."

Instead of going to the firm, Landver went to the police. She found out that some 100 immigrants had lodged complaints about similar scams.

The swindlers offered a wide range of loans, including sums that would cover up to 85 percent of the price of a new car, she said.

"These ads have been running for close to two years. I can't believe we were not aware of them until now," she said.

Landver believes the scams are made possible by the difficulty new immigrants encounter in getting loans. "Many of them do not have guarantors or do not meet all the requirements," she said. "If people were allowed to use their house or car as collateral for the loan, I believe it would put an end to this. I hope to introduce suitable legislation now."



Prof. Joshua Lustmann, the Israeli who has joined the class action suit against the Swiss banks, displays a photograph of relatives he lost in the Holocaust. (Ariel Jerusalem)

Maccabi trying out personal physician system

JUDY SIEGEL

THE MACCABI health fund is instituting a voluntary "personal physician" system for 20,000 selected members with the aim of reducing the number of superfluous tests and visits to specialists, while at the same time "personalizing and improving" medical care.

According to Maccabi, members affiliated with group medical practices in Jerusalem and the Sharon region are being offered such a deal on an optional, individual basis. Many of those receiving pamphlets in Hebrew and English are English-speaking, higher-income members used to the "gatekeeper" system of health care through health maintenance organizations in the US.

There, in an effort to cut waste and give a more personal touch to

primary care, a family physician or a general practitioner in group practice carefully monitors patients' health and refers them when necessary to specialists and tests.

A Maccabi official said yesterday that no one would be forced to join the plan; it will serve as a pilot project to see if it meets its aims. Physicians chosen for the project will get "special financial incentives" so they spend more time on each patient. Ordinarily, independent doctors working for Maccabi are paid according to how many patients they see within a certain amount of time.

In past years, Maccabi was a pioneer of the free-choice system, in which members could go to a

large number of specialists without a referral from their G.P. The health fund's quick growth was so breathtaking that Kupat Holim Clalit began to follow suit in a modified way.

A Clalit spokeswoman said that its members can go to a gynecologist, ear-nose-and-throat specialist, ophthalmologist, dermatologist, or orthopedist without first obtaining a referral. But it already regards the G.P. as a gatekeeper who "knows the most about the patient and his family" and does not receive any special compensation.

The Meuhedet health fund uses a mixed system, in which members have a G.P., but may choose a specialist at a health fund clinic or an independent physician. Neither it nor Leumi would comment on Maccabi's new scheme.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Wings' begins Haifa service

Royal Wings, the subsidiary of Royal Jordanian Airlines, yesterday made its inaugural flight from Amman to Haifa. The company, which is to offer two flights a week, initiated its Amman-Lod run nine months ago. Prince Faisal, King Hussein's son and commander of the third squadron of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Tourism Minister Saleh Issaidat and Transportation Minister Nassir Lawat canceled their trip on the inaugural flight without explanation.

Haim Shapiro

Bezeq technicians back on job

Bezeq technicians returned to a normal work schedule yesterday, after the government agreed to negotiate with their union on all issues involved in the latest work dispute. Bezeq management rescinded its request for a contempt of court order after the workers said they would go back to work. The union fears that greater exposure to competition from the private sector would endanger their jobs.

Judy Siegel

Artist brings his struggle against conformity to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv

HELEN KAYE

ACTOR Ichiro Kishimoto believes that "through art we can make contact with each other, beyond culture, beyond history, as human beings."

And so tonight at 7 p.m. Kishimoto, 43, will reach out to Jerusalemites by performing *The Conformists* on the Ben-Yehuda Mall near Zion Square. Next Sunday he will repeat the performance at 1 p.m. on Kabin Square in Tel Aviv.

Kishimoto, a Japanese actor

who lives and works in New York and visited Israel for the first time last August, wrote to *The Jerusalem Post* that his one-man show cites aloud the dangers of "the nationalistic enthusiasm that leads to violence."

People are isolated, he says, "and because they cannot communicate, their energies get soaked up by whatever political structure happens to be around."

Conformism, which helps nationalism grow, is the result of that misplaced energy.

Kishimoto first did the piece in English at the World Trade Center in 1986. Since then he has performed it in Tokyo, in French at the Avignon Festival and in German in Berlin. At each venue, he has recited words from that country's national anthem.

Here he will perform in Hebrew, and recite part of

"Hatikva." This is the first time he has done the piece since 1989; he is returning to it because "my intuition as a performing artist leads me to your country, and as an artist I must follow my intuition."

He writes that he has no hidden agenda, asking, "How could I have an opinion [on the Palestinian-Israeli problems]? Before I came here in August all I knew about Israel was from my history books in school. Even now I know very little. My piece is against violence, not against anybody."

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'Swiss banks extended World War II'

LIAT COLLINS and BATSHEVA TSUR

WORLD War II could have ended in 1943 had the Nazis not been financially aided by Swiss bankers, American attorney Ed Fagan, lead counsel for the team suing Swiss banks on behalf of Holocaust survivors, charged yesterday.

Fagan also noted that for 50 years, survivors talked of their Swiss bank accounts and no one believed them. "Now we must sue the strongest economic body in the world and tell them: 'You stole money from the Jews; you must return it before the remaining survivors die.'"

Fagan was speaking at the first meeting of the Knesset subcommittee for the return of Jewish property, headed by Avraham Herschson (Likud). He said he feared that the Swiss would use the excuse of the external investigating committee to postpone discussions for several years, "even in specific cases where a survivor has documents, until there are no more survivors left."

Herschson released a list of banks which had acted as a cloak for German activities and two previously classified documents, revealed by US investigators, on the Swiss banks involvement. One document states that Switzerland received gold ingots from Germany before the end of the war, either as payment for supplies

or as deposits for German firms. Switzerland requested that they be stamped prior to 1939 so that the ingots would not be included in the war damage settlements.

The second document is a list of the blocked private accounts of individuals from different countries and the amounts in them. The list, from the New York branch of a Swiss Bank, contradicts the bankers' claim that they do not have details of the identities of the account owners or the amounts deposited.

The first Israeli claimant, Prof. Joshua Lustmann, said later that he decided to join in the class action suit because he felt that it now has a chance of success.

"I was convinced something would change only through strong political pressure," said Lustmann, 55, who had applied to the Swiss banks more than 30 years ago, with the help of a lawyer, to find his family's account.

"We were told then, in very polite language, that we had to have a branch name and account number. There was nothing to be done."

Lustmann, who was born in Lvov, came from a very wealthy family. His paternal grandfather owned a wood business which had

five branches in different parts of Galicia and exported to several Western European countries, he said. During the war, his father was killed. He and his mother survived by moving from hiding place to hiding place. They were brought to Israel by the Joint Distribution Committee in 1950.

Lustmann said that all the members of his father's family who had remained in Europe were wiped out in the Holocaust.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said he had started handling the issue of missing property and money in 1988 and had received scores of calls from people who said their parents had travelled to Switzerland before the war to store their valuables and had later died in the Holocaust.

Jewish Agency head Avraham Burg said that following the demands on the Swiss, complaints would be filed against other countries in Central Europe. He warned against arguing at this stage over the size of the amounts being discussed, but said "not a single penny, dollar, or zloty" should remain where they do not belong.

World Jewish Congress director Israel Singer said several leaders in Central European countries have talked derisively about the Jews while holding on to Jewish cultural artifacts.

Alleged tax evaders released on NIS 750,000 bail

RAINE MARCUS

TWO men suspected of cheating the tax authorities out of hundreds of thousands of shekels were released on NIS 750,000 bail by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. They were also barred from leaving the country.

Arye Weiss, 50, and Rafi Tahaler, 49, managers at the SPTC compe-

ny, are suspected of listing fictitious salaries in the company's books.

Weiss and Tahaler allegedly falsely listed relatives and friends as employees from 1992 to 1995. Tax investigator Yosef Siro said they then drew on the salaries of

relatives who were abroad. They also listed tens of thousands of shekels in private expenses as company expenses, he charged.

SPTC represents several foreign companies and imports technical and fiber-optic equipment, which it sells mostly to academic institutions.

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TENDERS

TENDERS

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT (non-refundable)
580701	Supply agreement for low heeled, lightweight shoes Amount: 4,600 pairs Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices Period of the agreement: The supply agreement will be valid for one year, with an option to stagger delivery for a period of up to one further year, at the discretion of the Electric Corporation. The Electric Corporation reserves the right to increase or decrease the volume of the agreement by 30% of the total value. The period of the supply agreement may be extended for a further two years, at the same terms, at the discretion of the Corporation. Pre-conditions: Samples: Bidders should submit three samples of shoes for analysis (sizes 41, 42 and 44) to the warehouse in Haifa, to arrive by the last date for submitting the tenders. A tender submitted without samples will not be considered. Previous experience: Bidders must have experience in supplying shoes to institutions and organizations. They must have supplied at least 2,000 pairs of shoes of the type specified in the tender to a single customer during the last five years, to the client's full satisfaction. Recommendations: Bidders should attach recommendations from customers and must fill out the appropriate form. Bidders should note whether they have been a supplier to the Electric Corporation in the past.	NIS 351

Last date for submitting bids: January 26, 1997, at 11 a.m.

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT (non-refundable)
568907	1. Supply agreement for tools: Drills, grinding stones, blades, turning inserts etc.	NIS 936
566908	2. Supply agreement for tools: Cable cutters, paint mixers, steel brushes, emery cloths, files, etc.	NIS 351
568909	3. Supply agreement for tools: Screw-drivers, wrenches, pliers, hammers, tool boxes, etc. Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices Period of the agreement: The obligations and rights according to the agreed conditions will be valid for two years, with an option for an extension for a further year, at the discretion of the Electric Corporation. This option may be exercised by the Israel Electric Corporation at any time during the period of agreement.	NIS 351
583369	Pressure vessels and steam converters Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details, without prices Preconditions: 1. Bidders must be manufacturers of pressure vessels and have factory permits from the Israel Standards Institute according to regulation Alef Tel 9 or, alternatively, an ASME A certificate. 2. The steam converters must be according to the TEMA regulation. Bidders should enclose all the licenses, data and permits which attest to compliance with the above preconditions.	NIS 936

Last date for submitting bids: February 16, 1997, at 11 a.m.

GENERAL CONDITIONS (in addition to the pre-conditions stated above):

- A guarantee of 5% of the bid total, in the form of a private check, should be attached to the bid, except for tenders requesting technical information only (Stage A).
- Participation in a tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1988, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).
- Bidders who omit to provide a copy of any permit, permission, license, or any other document required in the pre-conditions, may be allowed to complete their documentation and submit such document(s), within a stated time to be determined by the Israel Electric Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained on Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pei-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8815455/4).

Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused on Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept. at the above address, and at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod building, Entrance B, Floor 1, Tel. 03-5654679, 03-5654641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be placed in Tenders Box No. 1, in the Pei-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

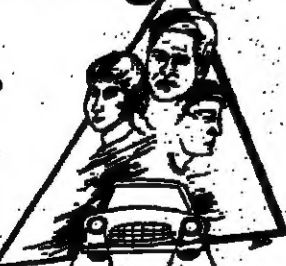
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French army involved in Africa yet again

PARIS (Reuters) - French army action in the Central African Republic at the weekend, propelling up a regime allied to Paris against local mutineers, was the latest of many actions which have earned France a reputation as "gendarme of Africa."

Between 8,000 and 10,000 French military personnel are based in several permanent African garrisons at any given time, ready to be reinforced rapidly by an equal number of troops on standby in France.

The presence of such forces has enabled Paris to make or break African regimes, drawing criticism from opponents on the continent and in France itself who say Paris must break with its colonial past.

French Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin warned the government on Monday against being bogged down in Central Africa by transforming its troops there into a personal guard for President Ange-Felix Patasse.

The best known French intervention on the continent was however not in a former French colony but in Zaire, previously the Belgian Congo, in 1977.

That operation, a dramatic parachute rescue of hundreds of European civilians under threat of massacre from Cuban-trained rebels, was also widely credited with saving Zaire's mineral-rich Shaba province for the West.

Although Paris and Washington now jostle for influence in Africa, the fear then that Zaire might fall to the Communist bloc resulted in giant American transport planes flying Foreign Legion paratroopers from Corsica to Zaire for their dramatic jump.

France has always been hampered by a lack of heavy lift capacity to Africa, and it was aboard chartered Ukrainian aircraft that French army vehicles were flown to Rwanda in 1994 to help stop a genocide of Tutsi tribesmen by Hutu countrymen.

The existence of permanent French bases in or near the capitals of Djibouti, Senegal, the Ivory Coast, Gabon, Chad and the Central African Republic are widely credited with having propped up the regimes of those countries, considered key Paris allies in the region.

But the presence of about 1,500 French troops in the Central African Republic has not prevented the local army there from splintering into tribal-based groups, and the weekend fighting was the fourth time in just over a year that France has taken military action in the area.

President Jacques Chirac was recently quoted as saying the time for unilateral intervention was over, but French efforts to create an intervention force of African countries has so far met with little success.

Washington has aired similar ideas but the rival proposals appear to have neutralized each other.

Australian woman choses suicide under euthanasia law

SYDNEY (AP) - A rare and incurable cancer had eaten away at Janet Mills' skin for three years. Peeling and flaking from head to toe, her disfigured body bled painfully and constantly itched.

Unable to bear the torment, the 52-year-old housewife became the second person to end her life under a controversial Northern Territory law that sanctions doctor-assisted suicide.

"Peace at last," were her last words to her husband and son after she activated computerized equipment that pumped a lethal cocktail of drugs into her bloodstream.

Her physician Dr. Philip Nitschke said yesterday he had helped her die in the Northern Territory capital, Darwin, on Jan. 2.

Suffering and with no chance of recovery, Mrs. Mills left her home in South Australia late last year and moved to Darwin, 3,000 km away, to take advantage of the territory law.

Nitschke also helped cancer patient Bob Dent, 66, become the first person to commit legal euthanasia on Sept. 22.

The National Coalition for

Voluntary Euthanasia announced Mrs. Mills' death on the Internet yesterday prompting churches, a major doctors' group and some legislators step up their opposition to the law.

In a letter written just before she died on Thursday, Mrs. Mills said she intended to "legally and honestly end her life," which had been ruined by mycosis fungoides, a cancer that relentlessly attacks skin cells.

"I believe that euthanasia is the greatest thing for people who are sick with no chance of getting better," she wrote.

"It's a wonderful idea and it stops people from suffering when they don't need to. No one wants to die if they don't have to, but I know I have had no hesitation in asking for this."

The Northern Territory's legislature became the first in the world to pass a voluntary euthanasia law in 1995.

Under the law, terminally ill patients must obtain the support of three doctors, including a psychiatrist, before they can obtain permission to end their lives.

S. Korea employers attempt to crush strikes

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korean prosecutors and management of giant industrial conglomerates launched a legal assault on militant labor union leaders to try to crush strikes that flared anew yesterday.

As many as 190,000 workers joined the latest wave of industrial action following a respite over New Year holidays, idling car plants and shipbuilding yards.

Hospital and broadcast unions were poised to join them.

Riot police fired teargas as more than 10,000 workers marched through Seoul to show their anger at a new labor bill and the latest attempts to quash union resistance to the legislation.

After trying conciliation to end stoppages that have crippled export industries, leading employers' groups squared off for a bruising battle with leaders of the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions.

Employers vowed to sue individual leaders over production losses they put at 340 billion won (\$403 million) from strikes so far.

Media reports said the employers were contemplating lockouts and bringing in replacement workers.

State prosecutors summoned about 20 confederation leaders for questioning over the strikes, which began the day the labor bill was railroaded through parliament and have since been declared illegal.

Prosecutors said unionists risked arrest if they did not turn up.

There was no sign the government would back down over legislation it says is vital to ensure South Korean industry maintains its international competitive edge.

The law shatters decades of near total job security by allowing employers to lay off workers, hire temporary staff and replace strikers.

Huddled around a gas stove for warmth, they directed the strikes with portable telephones.

Kwon accused the government of trying to divert public attention from the industrial unrest by provoking a showdown with the unions.

"Despite the government's strong response we will push on with our strikes and we won't back down," he said.



Two Dutch boys take a walk over the frozen North Sea beach at Scheveningen on a bleak winter's day yesterday. The freezing spell, now over a month long, has caused major havoc throughout the continent. (Reuters)

California town mops up after New Year floods

MACK REED
MODESTO, Calif.

The Gagos family did not easily give up their home of 35 years to the great New Year's week floods. They fought through the night to stop the brown water creeping across their back yard.

They filled sandbags nonstop, helped by friends who hauled in truckloads of sand and empty sacks. "We worked like dogs putting those on the outside," George Gagos said ruefully yesterday.

"But then my daughter looked down and noticed that water was coming in through one of the vents under the house."

Score another one for the river. The Tuolumne River is usually Modesto's best friend, but at the weekend it rose to its highest flood level ever recorded. Such civic milestones are painted onto the Ninth Street bridge, which displays the record flood as 69.2 feet on Dec. 9, 1950.

Early Saturday morning the river crested at 70.9 feet, and by nightfall had fallen a few scant inches, leaving the Gagos and about 2,000 of their neighbors temporarily homeless.

The water was pouring out of Don Pedro dam, which was built in 1971 and until this week had never spilled a drop of water over its release gates. Now it was disgorging a torrent, trying to stay ahead of the runoff cascading from the oversaturated Sierra.

In all more than 2,500 residents of Stanislaus County were forced out of their homes by floodwaters. A health warning was issued for Modesto because the city's sewage treatment plant was inundated, washing raw effluent into the water coursing through town.

Julia Furr joined more than 300 refugees on borrowed cots at the Red Cross shelter at Modesto High School. She had 90 minutes notice to leave her new residence in the Del Rio mobile home park beside the Tuolumne. She and her sons had moved in in August.

"I've been up the last two mornings at 3:30 worrying about the river," she said. "I'm just thankful we're alive. I cried and I cried because we're on a fixed income, and when we got our back SSI checks we each went out and bought something special."

When the water rose, she said, "I felt stunned because I had all my stuff still there. We had a new love seat, a new couch, a new TV, a new bed, and I lost so many clothes. We just took a few things and left."

Phyllis Sherman said the rising water also caught her by surprise. "It makes you rethink where your priorities are," she said. "You can step back and think one step at a time, and you can get through it and deal. But you feel a lot of your stress go up."

(Los Angeles Times)

Hostage crisis isolates Fujimori

DOUGLAS FARAH
LIMA

SINCE Marxist terrorists seized hundreds of high-profile hostages at the residence of the Japanese ambassador here two weeks ago, President Alberto Fujimori has grown increasingly isolated, alienating his traditional military allies and confining in a shrinking circle of confidants, according to military and diplomatic sources.

Fujimori, famous for his hard-line stance against Marxist insurgencies that were ravaging the country when he was elected in 1990, has long been known as a loner. But diplomats and friends said the president almost seemed to be in a state of shock immediately after the crisis began on Dec. 17, when about 20 terrorists of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement stormed the ambassador's residence, taking several hundred hostages. The terrorists, whose organization is known by its Spanish initials MRTA, have released several large

groups of hostages since then and currently hold 83 people, including several Cabinet ministers and supreme court justices, nine generals and several foreign ambassadors.

The president refuses to take even the telephone calls of his Cabinet ministers and has held no meetings with the diplomatic community to inform them of his strategy for dealing with the crisis, diplomats said.

And Fujimori, who only days before the crisis broke bragged that he had more difficulty "divorcing my wife than defeating the terrorists," is increasingly at odds with his senior military commander, Gen. Nicolas Hermoza, and his senior intelligence adviser, Vladimir Montecinos, the sources said.

"Fujimori is just not answering the telephone for anyone," said a source close to the military and government. "Montecinos and Hermoza have dropped from sight. He is not talking to the Americans or the British or most of the Asians."

The tension, according to the sources, is the result of Fujimori's embarrassment that the incident took place after he had declared victory over the MRTA. In addition, Montecinos and Hermoza reportedly favored a quick military strike to end the hostage crisis, a strategy Fujimori has rejected.

Instead of conferring with his advisers, the president spends his time by himself or with Roman Catholic Bishop Juan Luis Cipriani, who has built a reputation for being as staunchly anti-Marxist as Fujimori and has long enjoyed a privileged relationship with the president. Cipriani, a member of the Catholic Church's conservative Opus Dei movement, has played an increasingly important role as a mediator with the MRTA inside the ambassadorial residence, which is seen as a sign that Fujimori has decided to try to reach a negotiated, rather than a military, solution.

Despite his hard-line credentials in opposing the MRTA, the terrorists listen to Cipriani, one knowledgeable source said, "because they probably know he is the only

direct tie they can have to Fujimori. No one else, including (Fujimori's designated envoy Domingo) Palermo, has any access to the president at all."

Another diplomat said the only diplomatic missions that had any direct contact with Fujimori are Japan and Malaysia, but even that contact has been sporadic. Fujimori has told those diplomats what he was doing rather than consulting them, the diplomat said.

Japan is by far Peru's largest foreign supporter, pouring in some \$900 million this year in grants and loans. Fujimori is the son of Japanese immigrants, and there is a large Japanese community here.

A Japanese diplomat said the two governments were "in constant communication" and said the acting Japanese ambassador had spoken at least once to Fujimori by telephone. But, he added, "No one can read the mind of Fujimori. We cannot."

A US Embassy spokesman said the United States had offered different types of technical assistance to the Peruvian government, but so far had received no response from Fujimori.

(Washington Post)

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An IRA terrorist aims an RPG rocket in a new propaganda video on sale in Ulster. A similar weapon was used in yesterday's attack on Belfast's High Court in which two people were injured. (Reuters)

IRA blasts security bunker outside Belfast courthouse

THE Irish Republican Army yesterday fired a rocket at a security bunker guarding Belfast's main courthouse, missing the policeman inside and signaling increased activity for a new year.

At noon in heavy traffic, the IRA team drove past the bunker with its reinforced concrete and shatter-resistant glass, rolled down the window and fired a rocket that struck the pillbox but caused little damage.

The policeman inside the pillbox was taken to hospital suffering from shock and ringing ears, police said. A woman leaving the courthouse was reportedly knocked to her feet by the blast but unhurt, and paramedics treated another female pedestrian for shock.

"There were other motorists passing by at the time. Their lives were definitely put at grave risk," said police Chief Inspector Victor Hutchinson.

The police officer dove for cover when he saw the car slowing and window being rolled down.

The car, a Ford Mondeo, was abandoned in a Catholic neighborhood, the Markets, a few hundred meters to the south and

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
BELFAST

torched to destroy forensic evidence.

Using a recognized codeword, an IRA caller to a Belfast radio station claimed responsibility and said bombs were planted in Belfast's main train station, a bus station and four hotels in or near the city.

Police searches - which caused widespread travel delays - found no suspicious devices.

The IRA, which in February resumed its campaign against British rule of Northern Ireland after a 17-month cease-fire, has often attacked the Royal Courts of Justice, usually striking from and escaping back into the nearby Markets.

The outlawed group enjoys some support from the province's minority Catholics and intimidates many others into silence.

An IRA car bomb in 1989 badly damaged the courthouse, forcing British authorities to erect a high concrete fence and security bunkers at pedestrian-only entrance points on both sides.

Earlier yesterday, British soldiers exploded what turned out to be a hoax bomb left outside a welfare office in Catholic west Belfast.

On Sunday police confirmed they had discovered 100 kgs of explosive and bomb-making equipment inside a vehicle in rural South Armagh, a region bordering the independent Irish Republic well-known as a base for IRA operations.

It was the latest in a string of arms finds since the IRA resumed hostilities with a truck bomb in London's Docklands Feb. 9. Attacks in Northern Ireland began again Oct. 7.

Negotiations among nine Northern Ireland parties, but excluding the IRA-allied Sinn Féin party, resumed yesterday after a four-week Christmas break.

Participating are representatives of the province's two main Protestant paramilitary groups, which despite their official 27-month cease-fire have been blamed for two recent booby-trap bombs on the cars of leading IRA supporters. (AP)

Protesting students seek support of Serbian army

JOVANA GEC
BELGRADE

SERBIAN students said they received guarantees from the military chief yesterday that the army would not block their seven-week-old pro-democracy protests against President Slobodan Milosevic.

"We got firm assurances it will be so, and we are very pleased," said Dusan Vasiljevic, one of the students who met Gen. Momcilo Perisic, head of the powerful Yugoslav army, at the army's downtown headquarters.

A statement read by Vasiljevic said the army wanted political disputes solved peacefully and Yugoslavia to fully rejoin the international community. Serbia is the dominant republic of Yugoslavia.

The army has so far remained neutral in the widespread protests against Milosevic's annulment of Nov. 17 local elections - the greatest threat to his authority since he took office nine years ago. However, there have been indications the military is turning against him.

Milosevic brought army tanks onto the streets of Belgrade in March 1991 to halt protests. He also used the military to launch wars in Croatia later that year and in Bosnia in 1992.

But he then neglected the military in favor of

developing a powerful police force.

Prior to yesterday's meeting, students said they would ask Perisic not to allow "further diminishing of importance" of the army in Serbia.

In recent days, the Serbian president has deployed his well-equipped riot police in Belgrade and other towns in Serbia to prevent opposition demonstrators from marching through the city.

The students also asked for a meeting yesterday with Serbia's police chief, Zoran Sokolovic, to demand the removal of the police from Belgrade streets.

Protesters were to march yesterday to one of the main Belgrade churches.

Demonstrators on Sunday marched through Belgrade after first driving their cars downtown to mock a ban on marches by police who cited traffic concerns. Drivers honked, triggered car alarms and faked engine problems or accidents, all the while demanding that police keep traffic moving.

Drivers of halted cars chanted, "We need

police help." But hundreds of riot police remained inside their buses parked on adjacent streets.

"We are unbeatable," said Jelena Mistic as she drove slowly in her sub-compact Fiat. "They cannot kill our protest, not even with the police."

Milosevic and his allies won parliamentary elections in early November. However, when the opposition Zajedno coalition appeared to win the Nov. 17 runoffs for local offices in most large cities, including Belgrade, Milosevic canceled the results. That sparked protests by students and opposition party supporters.

Milosevic's refusal to concede electoral defeat has drawn fire from Western leaders and others. Serbian Orthodox Church leaders issued a sharply worded criticism last week, and the mayor of Belgrade, a close ally of Milosevic, reportedly resigned in protest over the weekend.

The opposition released a letter Sunday appealing to police to join the protesters.

"Do not let the Socialist thieves abuse you and pit you into conflict with the people who live difficult lives just as you do," the letter said. (AP)

Zaire rebels fight mercenaries

BUNIA, Zaire (AP) - Rebels have swept through eastern Zaire with amazing speed and efficiency, capturing six major towns and a gold mine in five months. Now, they face a problem that has bedeviled many a rebellion: They have begun fighting among themselves.

Only days after capturing President Mobutu Sese Seko's personal gold mine and assuring a source of income for the war, rebel soldiers from the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation were hunting down their former allies, locals known as mayi-mayi fighters.

While alliance leaders say they want to oust Mobutu and bring democracy to Zaire, the indepen-

dent-minded mayi-mayi fighters are more concerned about protecting their villages, 95 km southwest of the mine.

Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi traveled yesterday to Mobutu's jungle palace 1,200 km northeast of Kinshasa to discuss ways to end the fighting. However, in a statement released Sunday, the Zairian government repeated its position that it will not negotiate with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

"Zaire has been humiliated," said government spokesman Koloni Longo Abwayissa. "There will be no negotiations."

Defense Minister Gen. Likulia Bolongo also said military advisers would be placed in combat

zones and soon the army would begin a "total and devastating" counterattack.

The rebels took up arms against the government in September, after Rwandan Hutu refugees and Zairian officials threatened to expel local Zairian Tutsis, claiming they were not true Zairians.

With backing from governments in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, Zairian dissidents took advantage of the confusion and drove the demoralized and unpaid Zairian troops from a 595 km strip along Zaire's eastern border.

As the rebel group advanced from its birthplace in the town of Uvira, Kabila pledged to diversify his ranks by incorporating other ethnic groups.

Algerian terrorists kill 18

PARIS (Reuters) - Moslem guerrillas killed 18 people in an overnight attack in an Algerian village and four others in the capital Algiers just as the Algerian prime minister said his government had crushed rebel violence.

Algerian security forces, in a statement on the official Algerian news agency APS, said yesterday 18 people were also wounded in the attack on Douaouda village in the coastal province of Tipaza, 60 km west of Algiers.

The statement blamed the attack on a "group of terrorists," the official term for Moslem guerrillas who have been fighting the government since 1992.

Residents of the village reached by telephone said that about 60 rebels came down from the surrounding

mountain, blocked roads and then went on a bloody rampage.

"Villagers suspected the attackers were from the same group that carried out the raid the night before in Ben Achour village," said one resident.

About 50 rebels stormed Ben Achour village in Blida province, 50 km south of Algiers on Saturday night, killing 16 people from five families, including a disabled man.

Liberte newspaper said yesterday the Ben Achour attack was led by an aide to Antar Zouabri, leader of Algeria's ruthless guerrilla group Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

Yeltsin catches cold, postpones meetings

MOSCOW (AP) - Only two weeks after returning to work at the Kremlin, President Boris Yeltsin cut short his schedule for the rest of the week yesterday after coming down with what the Kremlin said was the flu.

His spokesmen were quick to stress that the ailment, which they also described as a bad cold, was unrelated to Yeltsin's recent heart problems or his November bypass surgery.

Yeltsin's condition "is bound to return to normal" by the end of this week, press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky told the ITAR-Tass news agency last night after Yeltsin was examined by the chief Kremlin physician.

But the episode focused

unwelcome new attention on the 65-year-old president's health, just as the Kremlin had begun to portray him as vigorous again and fully recovered from his heart trouble.

Yeltsin had a temperature of 37.5 C and headed to his country home outside Moscow after chairing a Kremlin meeting on NATO's eastward expansion, according to Yastrzhembsky.

"A wave of flu which descended on Moscow has not spared the president's family," the spokesman said at a briefing. "Many in the president's family either have suffered from it, or have the flu now."

Yeltsin postponed several meetings over the next few days and was advised by doc-

tors to rest at home.

The Kremlin swiftly denied a TV report that several doctors were involved in a consultation about Yeltsin's condition.

Before cutting short his schedule, Yeltsin chaired a meeting of top officials at which he reiterated his opposition to NATO's expansion, then held talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"It's the president's character - he's set on working," Yastrzhembsky said.

Notoriously impatient about advice to relax, Yeltsin promised American heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey and other doctors after his surgery that he would keep to a reasonable work schedule while

recovering. He has appeared relatively strong and healthy in recent public appearances.

The touchy NATO expansion issue is Russia's most pressing foreign concern. The Kremlin long has protested the alliance's planned expansion, saying it would tilt the military balance in Europe and damage Russia's security interests.

Yastrzhembsky said without elaborating that Yeltsin had "given directives to prepare a program of actions to implement Russia's stance."

"The Russian leadership isn't going to demonize NATO," the spokesman said. "One shouldn't think that Russia perceives NATO as an enemy ... or wants to view it through a gunsight."

Canadian government apology averts libel suit

TORONTO (AP) - The Canadian government has agreed to apologize to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney for suggesting he received kickbacks for an airplane contract, averting an unprecedented libel trial that was to have begun yesterday.

Under the settlement reached late Sunday, the government also agreed to pay Mulroney's legal bills, which reportedly rose to several hundred thousand dollars just for pre-trial work.

Mulroney's lawsuit sought the biggest libel award ever in Canada - \$50 million (US\$36.5 million) - and was the first filed against the government by a former prime minister.

"The government of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police regret any damage suffered by Mr. Mulroney and his family and fully apologize to them," said Gerald Tremblay, a lawyer for Mulroney.

French watchdogs sue US school for Web page

PARIS (AP) - Fighting to promote French in cyberspace, language watchdogs asked a court yesterday to punish a US university whose French campus favors English on the Internet.

In a landmark case that could force other Internet sites to conform to a narrowly enforced language law, two groups were suing Atlanta-based Georgia Tech's campus in eastern France.

The court is expected to announce its decision Feb. 24.

Citing a 1994 French law that bans advertising in any single language except French, the watchdog groups asked the court to fine Georgia Tech Lorraine up to 25,000 francs (dfrs 5,000).

Under the French constitu-

tion, French is the official language, and parents who haven't mastered English have the right in France to understand the education proposed to their children in France," said the groups' lawyer, Marc Jobert.

Georgia Tech Lorraine, a campus located in the eastern city of Metz but staffed by American-based professors, maintains a World-Wide Web page with course and registration information in English. It also has directions to the campus in French and English.

Georgia Tech Lorraine Deputy Director Francois Malassene called the lawsuit "frivolous," and said the law shouldn't apply to the university.

"The Web site is an information structure and not by any

means an advertisement," he said. "If you don't know how to read English, you will not be admitted."

The two watchdog groups, the Association for the Defense of the French Language and the Future of the French Language, are accredited and partly funded by the Culture Ministry to file

civil suits against businesses that run afoul of the language law.

Amid debate fraught with irony over policing the spoken word, France adopted the 1994 law to forbid ads produced in a foreign language unless they are accompanied by a French translation.



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Russian vandalizes painting

AMSTERDAM (AP) - A man sprayed a green dollar sign on an \$8.6 million abstract painting "to make an artistic statement," police said yesterday.

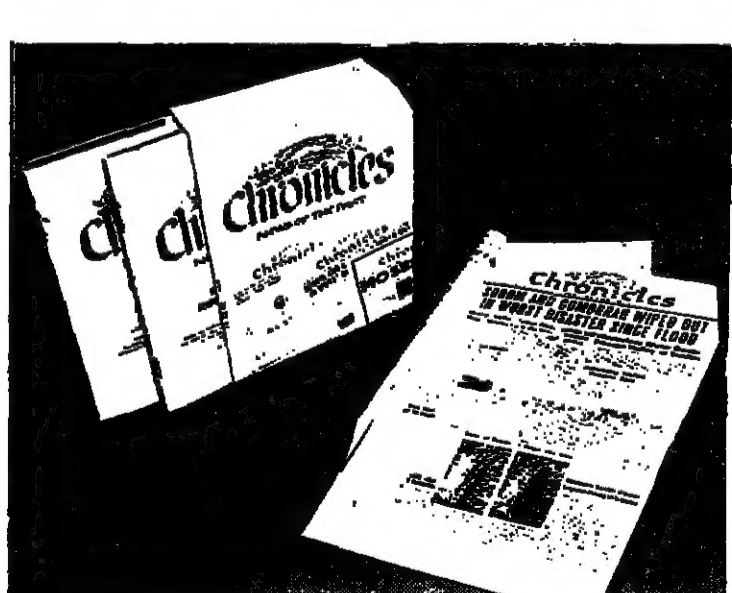
Alexander Brener, 39, of Moscow, sprayed the sign on the oil painting "Suprematism," by Russian abstract artist Kazimir Malevich on Saturday and immediately turned himself in to guards at the Stedelijk modern art museum, spokeswoman Jacqueline Hagman said.

Hagman described Brener as a performance artist who had no apparent grudge against the museum. Police arrested Brener and turned him over to the public prosecutor.

Brener told investigators he wanted "to make an artistic statement," according to a police press release.

Hagman said an art restorer managed to clean most of the paint off the canvas. The 1920s abstract painting depicts a white cross on a gray background.

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Religious denial

This week a cartoon appeared in *Yediot Aharonot* depicting Noam Friedman, the kippa-wearing soldier arrested for shooting into a crowd of Arabs in Hebron, in the strange sitting position he chose to commit his barbaric act. The cartoon is captioned "From yeshiva to yeshiva." "Yeshiva" is the Hebrew word for a place of Jewish study and also the word for sitting.

The cartoon's implication, that it was Friedman's Jewish studies that led him to attempt a massacre of innocent people, would have been termed antisemitic if it had appeared in an Egyptian or other foreign newspaper.

The problem is that, in an Israeli context, the cartoon highlights a deeply disturbing fact: that in recent times political violence has come from the religious extreme right.

Baruch Goldstein, Yigal Amir, and Noam Friedman all studied in religious schools and considered themselves religious Jews. The vast majority of the religious public here is horrified by what these people did, and believes that the murderers' Judaism is so deeply perverted that it bears little relationship to the peaceful, ethical religion that most observant Jews aspire to practice.

It is understandable, therefore, that religious institutions, be they educational or political, have rejected attempts to blame the entire religious community for the extremists in their midst. The phenomenon of violent Jewish extremism is a tragedy for all Israelis, but most of all for religious Jews who feel that an entire educational system and way of life has been defamed.

It is hard, for example, not to feel for the mother and grandmother of Friedman, who spoke in bewilderment and horror at his actions. "This wasn't what he learned at home, not what he learned from his family, not from his mother or his father, not from his sisters, not from school," his grandmother, a Holocaust survivor said.

Every community has its disturbed and extreme people. Religious nationalists must not be blamed as a movement or a group, but neither is this community absolved from doing all it can to route out and reject violent people and the ideas that motivate them.

It is encouraging that in the wake of this recent attack, leaders of the nationalist religious camp are not just condemning the act, but calling for action within their own community. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (NRP) said there must be soul-searching within the religious sector, and admitted that the religious educational establishment has been extremely cautious in addressing the murder of Yitzhak Rabin. Efrat resident and Third Way MK Alex

Lubotsky said, "We, the religious and residents of Judea and Samaria, must denounce violence and exorcise the bad from among us. Such acts are a moral crime which are a stain on all of us."

Religious Zionists, with some justification, have always considered themselves to be among the most self-sacrificing, patriotic, and loyal members of Israeli society. It is not surprising that a community that produces some of the best of Israel would be in a sense of denial that it had also produced the worst.

It is unclear whether the national religious community is really emerging from this state of denial, born of the sense of contradiction between the vision of the Zionist ideal and the horror of that same ideal when taken to extremes.

The fact that an ideal can be perverted, however, does not reflect on the merits of the ideal. There should be no contradiction between fostering the pioneering spirit and sense of religious mission that religious Zionism is proudest of, while instilling the values of tolerance, democracy, and human dignity.

The value of retaining possession of the biblical land of Israel cannot be treated as an absolute. It must be balanced against values such as democracy, peace, and the sanctity of human life. Such a balance does not minimize any of these values; in fact moderation and balance is in itself a Jewish value.

After the murder of Yitzhak Rabin, the Ministry of Education increased efforts to develop programs to foster education toward such democratic values in the curriculum of the national religious schools. Unfortunately, most of these programs still are in the development phase and have not been introduced into the schools.

It will take a substantial and sustained push from the top to accelerate the implementation of these programs, and to overcome the natural resistance of educators to enter very subjective, controversial areas.

Special care must be taken to ensure that "values education" maintain a delicate balance. It cannot become the province of one camp or another. Teaching values is a tricky business, but the difficulties must be addressed, because the nation cannot afford a vacuum in this area.

That said, the responsibility does not lie solely with the schools. Political and religious leaders, particularly in the national religious camp, must work systematically to strengthen the complementary values of democracy, rule of law, and the long-term need to build lives with our Arab neighbors. Historically, these values have had a place in religious Zionism; they must be brought back into the fold.



Egos and aspirations

YECHIEL LEITER

WHEN the Voice of Palestine criticized the PFLP murder of Etta and Ephraim Tzur, it did not say that the murder of innocent people was wrong, only that the attack would not serve the Palestinian cause.

There has still been no unambiguous official condemnation of the attack other than a reported "expression of sorrow" from Arafat in a private phone conversation with the prime minister.

Noam Friedman's attack on Arabs in the Hebron market last week was wrong not because it doesn't serve our interest — although that is certainly the case. It was inherently wrong, halachically forbidden, morally repugnant.

Judaism provides no justification for egotistical, self-appointed know-it-alls to arrogate to themselves the right to decide the nation's future. And Friedman's kippa doesn't make him "religious" any more than sporting an earring would make him a hedonist.

A person's actions determine prima facie who they are. Dress only indicates what they might aspire to identify with — and if Friedman was aspiring to identify with Judaism, he failed miserably.

That Friedman had been hospitalized and placed under psychiatric care, that he was sent by no one and condemned by everyone is little consolation. It may set him apart from the Palestinian terrorists, who are directed and funded by official organizations, state governments and the general Arab population and enjoy a broad base of support, but it doesn't lessen the hurt, frustration and anger he caused us all.

From Binayamin Netanyahu to the youngest child in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, many lives could be affected by Friedman's madness.

Actions like Friedman's are as politically stupid as they are morally reprehensible.

Those who pressure us will now find it easier. And the prime min-

ister will find it even harder to withstand those pressures in his legitimate need to distance himself from the actions and goals of the would-be assassin.

But the fact that Friedman's deed, like the deeds of the few he followed, has been to the political detriment of Oslo's opponents has

We opponents of Oslo condemn Friedman's deed utterly, but that's no reason to stop resisting Oslo

not stopped our detractors from attributing collective blame to those in whose interest Friedman claimed to be acting.

The refrain is familiar: "Well, if goes, you may not have benefited from the act, but your anti-Oslo policies are what brought it on."

In fact, Oslo's opponents are no more responsible for Friedman than Jesse Jackson and other black activists are for Colin Ferguson's murder of six white people on a New York commuter train, or Newt Gingrich and his neo-conservative allies are for Timothy McVeigh's blowing up of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The IRA and the Pope are both Catholic, but no one would accuse the Pope of setting off bombs in Piccadilly Circus. And no one would hold Martin Luther responsible for the fact that in Germany the rate of Protestant suicides is double that of Catholic ones.

Psychopathy will always find its expression. Had Friedman lived elsewhere, in different but equally volatile times, he would likely have aimed his bullets in a different direction.

STILL WE in Judea, Samaria and Gaza must continue to deplore, condemn and educate against violence, despite the incessant violence perpetrated against us, despite the political madness Oslo has brought upon us. There can be no excuse for the willful harming of innocents.

However, none of this is reason to abandon the ideas upon which our opposition to the Oslo process is based. Oslo has raised Arab expectations to a level that can never be attained if Israel is to survive.

Sooner or later the government will reach a red line it cannot cross. (This would be true of any Israeli government; with a Netanyahu government it will hopefully happen sooner rather than later, before we have discarded our national, and natural, resources.)

When that happens, when Israel's expected total surrender doesn't materialize, that will be the casus belli for Arafat and his minions to "return" to the armed struggle and to all those paragraphs in the PLO charter that he will have amended half-a-dozen times in one form or another.

Terrorism will increase, and Israel will be forced to retaliate. And the surrounding Arab states will seize the opportunity they've never given up dreaming about. They will "come to the defense" of their "Palestinian brothers," and a regional conflagration will ensue.

The sooner we exit Oslo, the stronger we will be. And the stronger we are, the less our enemies will be tempted to go to war, and the greater the chances for peace.

That's the equation. It hasn't changed. Friedman, like the distorted minds before him and those that will probably follow him, only make it harder for everyone to calculate.

The writer is executive director of the Judea, Samaria and Gaza Council Foreign Desk and chairman of the One Israel Fund.

A matter of national honor

JAY BUSHINSKY

of my enemy is my friend."

The common enemy was, and still is, Turkey.

Papandreou knew that Assad resented Turkey's domination of the Euphrates River's sources and its ability to regulate its flow downstream, as well as the Turkish annexation of the port of Alexandretta 60 years ago.

Greece's bitterness toward

Greece could be pivotal in bringing the world's most notorious Nazi fugitive to justice

Turkey encompasses geographical and political disputes that date back to the former Ottoman Empire's long domination, the cession of ancient Greek cities in Asia minor, rivalry over the Aegean Sea, and the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

BUT THESE considerations, ranging from raison d'etat to pan-Hellenism and Greek nationalism, do not mitigate the need to seek justice in the name of Greece's ancient Jewish community.

Papandreou and his successors surely read the account of the Salonika deportations given by one of Adolf Eichmann's top aides, Dieter Wislenczy, as submitted to the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg in 1946:

"There were 60,000 Jews concentrated in certain parts of Salonika. A telegram was sent by Eichmann to Brunner in which he was instructed to transfer the Jews of Salonika to Auschwitz immediately."

"The means of transportation were requisitioned from the Wehrmacht and Brunner did not have to specify the number of railroad cars necessary."

"Altogether, 50,000 Jews were transported from April to May, 1943. To this end, they used 20 to 25 trains, each of which carried 2,000 to 2,500 Jews. Others, about 3,000 to 4,000 workers who were building the railway for the Tor organization, were transported afterwards."

The Salonika Jews who reached Auschwitz were starving, sick with typhus and totally disoriented. They were herded straight to the gas chambers. Of the 65,000 Jews sent to Auschwitz from all over Greece, only 1,475 survived.

That is why it is not enough for Greece's postwar ministers and diplomats to have merely "urged" the Syrians to investigate whether Brunner was indeed in Damascus. The assurances given them weren't honored anyway.

When France formally demanded Brunner's extradition for committing similar crimes on French territory and Germany and Austria followed suit, Greece should have done likewise, as a matter of Greek national honor.

It would have been no more than befitted a country with a heroic and humanitarian record, one that tried to foil the Nazi Holocaust.

The writer is a foreign correspondent based here.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MOTIVATION

Sir, — Commenting on the upcoming IDF retreat from Hebron in an interview in *Ma'ariv* (December 20), Defense Minister Mordchai said, "I will not set the entire Middle East ablaze for a few dilapidated buildings in Hebron." Aside from this manifestation of insensitivity and ignorance of the meaning of certain sites to the Jewish people since time immemorial, Mordchai's comment brings up several interesting practical questions.

First, if the Arabs are willing to set the entire Middle East ablaze for a few dilapidated buildings, doesn't this say something about the importance of motivation? We have recently been treated to a spate of articles and surveys indicating that the motivation of Israeli youth to serve has fallen, except for those in the national religious camp. For this latter group, dilapidated buildings seem to still have enough meaning to risk their lives. And how does Mordchai expect to raise the motivation of secular youth when he himself denigrates such values?

Second, the battle for Jerusalem has already begun. Will Israel again retreat because there is no point in making an issue of a few dilapidated buildings? These questions are worthy of consideration now rather than when it may be too late.

NOAM KAMPLER
Ginot Shomron.

WRONG TRANSLITERATION

Sir, — "A Jerusalem couple has received first prize in the prestigious stamp design competition, the Robert Stolz Cup — awarded by the widow of Stolz, who was a composer of operas and movie scores in Vienna and a stamp lover" (your report of December 29).

"Stolz" is Robert Stolz, also a great friend of Israel, who conducted the Israeli Philharmonic several times and composed a song for Israel, "Follow the Sun." PROFESSOR PETER E. GRADENWITZ
Tel Aviv.

APOLOGY PRESENTED

Sir, — I wish to respond to Moshe Kohn's column, "What New Middle East?" (*The Jerusalem Post*, January 3).

Although Mr. Kohn accurately describes the unfortunate departure of Arab guests at a private home in Boston, Massachusetts, upon learning of the presence of Israel's Consul-General Dan Kyrman, his assertion that "neither the United States Information Agency nor the Boston Center for International Visitors apologized" needs correction.

A few days after the incident, I received full and sincere apologies from both the president of the BCIV and Dr. Joseph Duffey, the

national director of the USIA. Both regretted the behavior of the Arab visitors and promised to intensify and clarify existing briefing procedures that should have prevented such inexcusable behavior.

LAWRENCE D. LOWENTHAL,
New England Director,
American Jewish Committee,
Boston.

Moshe Kohn comments: I apologize for my error, which came about because I had based myself on Jeff Jacoby's column in the *Boston Globe*, evidently written before the apologies were tendered.

THE HUNGER WINTER

Sir, — Amy Klein's feature article of November 29, "The illegal camera" describes in stark detail the conditions in Holland during 1940-45, closing with a few short paragraphs dealing with "Hunger Winter" of 1944-45.

Less than one sentence was used to summarize Allied efforts to alleviate that hunger. The Manna/Chowhound missions of late April — early May 1945 by the British Royal Air Force and the US 8th Air Force bombers delivered more than 12,000 tons of food by low-altitude air drop to several sites in Western Holland. The RAF also included squadrons

of Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders and Poles. I have a photo taken in early May '45 above Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam, as I was dropping our plane's load on signal from the lead B-17.

The Netherlands government and the Dutch Food and Freedom Foundation have considered these food deliveries significant enough to sponsor to reunion celebrations for Manna/Chowhound veterans.

JOSEPH BORNSTEIN
(Formerly, Bombardier, 388th BG, Knetishall, England)
Burlington, Vermont.

JEWISH IDENTITY

Sir, — In his article of December 24, "Christians, Jews and Israel," David Forman draws a direct link between "genuine religious fervor and the ideological role that Israel plays..." It should come as no surprise that there is a direct correlation between the level of Jewish identity and observance amongst American Jews, and their interest and involvement in the Jewish state. When Jewish identity is not central, identification with things Jewish including the State of Israel will not be central. For too many American Jews, being Jewish is at best a marginal

matter, the fact of their Jewishness has no day-to-day relevance in their life. Lack of involvement with Israel is simply a reflection of a lack of meaningful involvement as Jews.

Strengthening identification with Judaism and the Jewish people needs to be a priority both in the Diaspora and in Israel. We should not believe that here in Israel we are any more immune to the corrosive effects of weakened Jewish identity than are the Jews of America.

DANIEL EHRLICH
Jerusalem.

Off limits

HELEN MOTRO

"BUT some animals are more equal than others." My nine-year-old daughter learned Orwell's bitter lesson the winter we moved to Israel.

She had packed her beloved plastic shin guards at the very top of her suitcase. They had soccer in Israel, she knew, and she was eager to get started here as soon as she could.

Her soccer career had recently begun on the elementary school team. That fall, before we left for Israel, we attended her games on weekend afternoons and watched as she guarded the goal with all her might, her red face full of determination and excitement.

Well, my daughter never got to wear those shin guards in Israel. Not even once.

During the first intermission in the schoolyard, when she joined the kids' impromptu game, they jeered and booed her off the field. No teacher stepped in.

In Israel in the '80's, my daughter learned in no uncertain terms that soccer was definitely off limits for girls.

I didn't stand up for her when they wouldn't let her play soccer because she was a girl. I can think of a lot of excuses explaining why I didn't intervene — but that's all they were: excuses.

Now I know I should have fought that fight on her behalf, even if I was doomed to lose. At least she would have seen that her mother had enough faith in her convictions to argue with a system that couldn't understand what in the world she was complaining about.

More, it would have been a vote of confidence in the integrity of a little girl.

OVER a decade later, I was helping my youngest daughter with a workbook.

"Name some ways in which

In Israel, it's premature to talk about the glass ceiling when girls aren't even admitted to the locker room

baseball and ballet are the same and different" the book said. My eight-year-old didn't hesitate. "Only boys play baseball," she chirped.

She had never seen nor heard of a boy taking a dance class, and I was happy to tell her how the young Israeli ballet dancer Yuval Plik had won a gold medal in Paris for his solo performance.

But those words were just a drop in the ocean in the face of the social messages that bombard our children every day.

The teacher in my eight-year-old's third grade gym class has the boys and girls divided — boys to soccer, girls to volleyball. Although sometimes boys who don't want to play soccer are allowed to join in volleyball, nobody ever asked a girl if she might want to cross the gender line.

And that's just the point. The inviolable gender line is instilled and reinforced through sports and games, the most appealing medium available to children.

Girls miss out on the bonding and camaraderie that comes from meeting week in, week out to practice for a match. They don't receive the invaluable lesson of learning to work together toward a common goal. They don't have the excitement of identifying with their buddies, all feeling special in their silky uniforms.

Girls are denied the confidence — and pressure — of being those whose actions make the difference. They never get the chance to hear the crowd cheering for them.

Playing on a sports team prepares you for taking part in that management team later on. When you get used to sitting by the sidelines, you may not know where to go when it's time to get up.

In Israel, it seems premature to talk about the glass ceiling when the girls can't even get admitted to the locker room.

My younger daughter participates in a swim team, where, I am happy to say, girls are just as welcome as boys. But in directing her toward this socially-sanctioned activity, aren't I copping out again?

Maybe, like her older sister, it's really soccer she wants to play? I don't even dare ask.

Taking her swimming bag out of the closet the other day I noticed, right in the very back, those dusty, unused shin guards. Those silent witnesses, still waiting.

There's still nowhere a girl could wear them in our neighborhood.

The writer is a lawyer who lives in Kfar Shmaryahu.

The que
of pop cla
her thro

Liturgical w

السلامة

The queen of pop claims her throne

IN TUNE
DAVID BRINN

Evita
MADONNA
(Hed Arzi)

THIS CD soundtrack to the film of the same name will be gobbled up by Madonna fans, and with good reason.

It's just more proof that she's one of the finest singers of her generation. And now, bolstered by the songs of the reunited Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, she has entered the realm of pop diva.

Along with the well-known songs from the original play, the famed duo have written new material which Madonna claims as her own.

Sophisticated, mature and full of confidence, she once again manages to move the focus away from the tabloids and back to the music, where it belongs.

If Michael Jackson is the king of pop, then Madonna is surely his queen.

Best Disco in Town Vol. 2
VARIOUS ARTISTS (NMC)

DUST off those old platform shoes, disco is back and sounding better than ever.

Saobobishly dismissed as all rhythm and no content by us rock fans in the 1970s, this double CD retrospective proves that there was some fine music in between all that bumping and grinding. Either that or compared to its later-day stepsons, rap and hip hop, disco just sounds better.

Choice offerings from Gloria Gaynor, KC and the Sunshine Band, and even The Village People hold up surprisingly well, and clearly show the connection and influence disco has had on such '90s artists as the Pet Shop Boys.

Since this is Volume 2 of the series, the selections wear a little thin. And even more than most genres of the era, disco produced its share of disposable nonsense. But it provides a guiltless trip to the past and will turn even those of us with two left feet into dancin' fools.

The Arista Years
THE GRATEFUL DEAD
(Hed Arzi)

Dozin' at the Knick
THE GRATEFUL DEAD
(Grateful Dead CDs)

THESE two multi-CD discs will not convert the skeptics, and in fact, may prompt some Deadheads to re-examine their heroes.

The Arista Years is a double CD covering the period from the time the band signed with Arista Records in 1977 and began releasing a series of increasingly commercially oriented studio albums and Jackhammer live efforts.

Even Deadheads look with disdain upon such lackluster efforts as *Go to Heaven* from 1980 and *Built to Last* from 1983.

But most of the worthy material is rescued, and presented here, including the band's studio peak "Terrapin Station" and selected songs from their 1980 unplugged-before-it-time live album *Reckoning*. All the hits are here too, from "Alabama Getaway" to "Touch of Gray."

But overall, there is little indication of the magic that the band was capable of creating.

Dozin' at the Knick is another in a line of recorded live concerts from various periods of its career which the band has released themselves over the last few years.

This triple CD captures the Dead in 1990, a couple years after its resurgence following guitarist Jerry Garcia's coma and its earlier resurrection due to its MTV hit "Touch of Gray."

The first disc, consisting mostly of warm-up songs dominated by keyboardist Brent Mydland, is totally expendable. But as the band begins to explore its jamming roots on the following discs, flashes of its early 1970s brilliance shine through.

By 1990, the band would never scale the heights of its youth, nor plunge to the depths of some of its murkier shows where it sputtered and sank.

Competent, occasionally spunky, but mostly laid back, the Dead



Eva Peron (Madonna) calls for the release of her husband in the movie 'Evita.'

circa 1990 knew its limits. The highlights are the achingly beautiful Garcia ballads like "Stella Blue" and "Brokedown Palace," which the band treats with finesse. When they have to rock out, however, they show their age, most

notably on a sluggish cover of Chuck Berry's "Around and Around" which is dominated by an extraordinarily inappropriate keyboard accompaniment from Mydland.

The acid test here is playing

Dozin' and then putting on the band's previous homemade release, the electrifying *The 100 Year Hall* from 1972.

While there is no comparison, the best that can be said is that the Dead aged gracefully.

Arnie Lawrence swings into Jerusalem

NORM GUTHARTZ

THE second in a series of monthly "jazz club" performances at Jerusalem's Pargod Theater on Thursday at 9:30 p.m. is to feature saxophonist Arnie Lawrence, a recent immigrant from the U.S. Lawrence, 61, long a fixture on the New York scene, will be joined by outstanding jazz students at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance, and faculty members Steve Peskoff (guitar) and Jean Claude Jones (bass).

The Brooklyn native has gigged and recorded with Chico Hamilton, Joe Newman, Howard McGhee, Frank Foster, Clark Terry, Urbie Green and trumpeter Doc Severinson. He followed Severinson from his sextet to join

the big band the trumpeter led on *The Tonight Show*. Lawrence was the featured soloist with the unit for seven years until the show's production was moved to Los Angeles.

In 1986, Lawrence opened the four-year BA-awarding New School Jazz and Contemporary Music Program in New York, which attracted not just top teachers like drummers Art Blakey and Roy Haynes, but its students included future members of the rock groups Blues Travelers and Spin Doctors.

His next project is to open a new institution in September, the International Center for Creative Music in Jerusalem, which will be devoted to teaching world music.

A risible rendering of Pirandello

THEATER REVIEW
NAOMI DOUDAI

Enrico IV by Luigi Pirandello. Hebrew, Tali Yitzhak and Avi Oz. Direction, Mitko Buzakov. Set, Sasha Lissiansky. Costumes, Ofra Confino. Music, Efrat Shoshana. Assistant Theater, Ramat Gan. Hebrew title, *Henry Haren's*.

THROUGHOUT the first part of this Pirandello production, I'm disturbed by giggles and sounds of irreverent and otherwise inappropriate amusement. They come from the drama students in the surrounding audience. Has no one ever taught them, I whisper, that Pirandello's plays are tragedy, not comedy? That his view of human misery, at times ironically, farcically funny, is never, never funny ha-ha?

But soon enough I see what bugs them. Whereupon I want to cry, not laugh. For here is yet another attempt to turn a modern classic into contemporary entertainment, take what it may. What it takes is much frenzied frothing and foaming, high-pitched passion, and fake emotion. Direction, replacing subtle message and meaning with a mishmash of melodrama, robs a great work of its real significance.

Three well-known actors,

Rosina Cambus, Dov Reiser, and Yossi Yablanka, lead a cast of newly graduated players. With the exception of Yablanka who plays the role of shrink with restraint and respect, they all go at it in unbridled fury. At the slightest provocation they tear into each other in the sort of screaming contest that has come to substitute for the dignified delivery of the high heroic among our less accomplished actors.

Ridiculed and reduced to the risible are Pirandello's tormented characters. Their psychic trauma, crises of identity, and metaphysical anguish are turned into travesties here.

Driven out too is the playwright's terrifying vision of the futility of human endeavor. That is the key to the cerebral and celebrated works of a writer who is now considered one of the milestones in the evolution of modern drama.

Considering that the music, set and costumes are on a scale more lavish and visually exciting than any ever displayed at Hasiyfa hitherto, one can only sigh and say, more's the pity...

Death becomes two sopranos, in Eilat and Jerusalem

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

VERDI'S *Requiem* has often been performed in Israel, but Saturday night's concert in Eilat will be unique. On stage in a somewhat improvised arts center in Eilat will be the full forces of the Kirov orchestra and chorus coming directly from their home in St. Petersburg. On the podium will stand one of the most important, influential and exciting conductors of our times, Valery Gergiev.

Of the four soloists, three are from the Kirov, but one comes from New Jersey. Sharon Sweet, who has sung Verdi and Beethoven in Israel, returns to sing for the first time with Gergiev, and both sides are excited about the venue.

The Red Sea International Music Festival opens this Thursday with a special concert in Akaba, and continues Friday and Saturday in Eilat. Gergiev is very excited about the event. "It has great potential," he says.

Sweet made her Israeli debut as Aida some years ago, and she sings most of Verdi's leading

ladies in the major opera houses all over the world. She also regularly stars at the Metropolitan in New York.

In the past few seasons, Sweet has made a name singing Puccini's *Turandot* all over the world. It is not an easy role, she admits, in spite of the fact that there are only 22 minutes of singing to it. "I love *Turandot* so much but I don't like to sing it. For me this is like singing lullabies and then the top is easy."

Sweet has the appearance of a fin-de-siècle opera singer and she hasn't forgiven local critics who commented only on her looks and not on her voice when she did Aida here. "I built my reputation on my voice and not on my looks," she says firmly. "But actually I'd rather not talk about the issue altogether because it hurts."

The Verdi *Requiem* concludes this year's edition of the Red Sea Music Festival. And if local music lovers and authorities are enthusiastic enough, there is a very good chance that next January Gergiev and his Kirov forces will return to Eilat.

ON an average night Angela



Sharon Sweet in the Royal Opera House's 'Turandot.'

(Reg Wilson)

Maria Blasi dies on stage, again and again and again. "I love to die," says the New York-born, California-raised soprano who now lives in Munich

with her husband and two daughters, aged three and six.

"It's an art to learn. The more happy you are when you die, the sadder it is for the audience. You must not anticipate death or you ruin it."

Blasi dies on stage as Mimì in *La Bohème*, a favorite role, or as Liu in *Turandot*, a role which she deems perfect, to name just two of the roles she is in constant worldwide demand for.

The best music is written for those sopranos who die. "If you want to sing those great arias, you literally have to die for them."

Blasi is currently singing at the Liturgical Festival in Jerusalem. This time she does not don a costume and kill herself with a dagger or die of consumption. That said, death is still very much part of her repertoire as she sings two requiems, the Latin mass for the dead.

On Saturday night Blasi sang the Mozart *Requiem* with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra under Gary Bertini.

And on Wednesday she sings the Brahms German *Requiem* with the visiting Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under the

orchestra's music director Lorin Maazel.

"Whenever I sing a requiem I think about someone in my family who died and so I dedicate my performance to that person," she says.

Blasi suggests that "Mozart's is of its own kind, it's not a typical requiem like Brahms's is. Whenever I hear the second movement in Brahms I start to cry. In Mozart I feel that there is life after death."

She suggests that she has had enough of modern-day staged opera. "Opera today gets a little bit out of hand and I haven't been impressed with what I've seen lately. I object to doing things just for the sake of shocking."

Liturgical works from Vienna to Yemen

CONCERT ROUNDUP

JEWISH liturgy was represented in the Liturgia series by a reconstruction of the Friday evening service in the Vienna synagogue of 1828, as set to music by cantor/composer Shlomo Sulzer. (He also commissioned prayers from contemporaries such as Schubert.) Sulzer composed in a standard classical style, striving for an ambience of festivity and solemnity. Prof. Elyahu Schleifer's cantorial vocal style and mellow voice contributed to this ambience, as did the singing of the Upper Galilee Choir, conducted by Ron Zaiti.

Yair Rosenberg's setting of the High Holy Day chant *Unetaneh tokef*, performed by Hanoch Albiak, provided a moving opening to the performance.

Jerusalem Theater, Dec. 27. Ury Eppstein

ALSO as part of the Liturgia series, Yemen's traditional religious chant in its pure form was presented by folk singers such as Aharon Amram, Gila and Eli Bashari and the Mizmorei Teiman Choir from Rosh Ha'ayin. Their tradition was in genuine melismatic style.

The Yemencite brand of femininity in song was fascinatingly revealed by Lea Avraham, and Miriam, and Shirli Tsafiri in the

traditional women's repertoire, in Arabic. Their voices' ingratiating softness can hardly be found among present-day Western female entertainment singers. Some attempted modern arrangements were mercifully discreet, refraining from harmonizations, and leaving the natural charm of the original versions unimpaired.

Jerusalem Theater, Dec. 30. Ury Eppstein

AN endearing feature of the Schola Cantorum Cantate Domino boys' choir from Flanders, conducted by Michael Ghis, was the clear, pure sound of the boy sopranos. The dark voices of the bigger 17-year-old choristers sounded well-cultivated and, in their ensemble singing, carefully balanced and thoroughly trained.

This was a genuinely liturgical concert of the Liturgia series, consisting mostly of music composed for the church, performed in its authentic style. Slower than usual tempo and precise articulation attested to Ghis's experience in church conducting. He thus achieved remarkable transparency even in the intricate textures of the Renaissance pieces by Josquin

Despres and Jacob Obrecht and the contemporary Vic Nees and Kristian van Ingelgem, not allowing himself to be trapped in the usually adverse acoustics of this church.

The Renaissance works naturally conveyed the solemnity of sacred music. The first acquaintance with not widely known modern Flemish composers was refreshing. Nees's madrigal sounded enjoyably imaginative, moving in unpredictable harmonic progressions and sensitively highlighting the musicality of the Flemish language. The responsorial passages of Ingelgem's *Te Deum* introduced some drama into the liturgy without resorting to superficial effects. The Polish Henryk Gorecki's *Amen*, though bordering on the theatrical, achieved an impressive ending.

Dormition Abbey, Dec. 26. Ury Eppstein

AFTER several far-from-successful attempts at presenting choral programs with local vocal ensembles, the Israel Chamber Orchestra managed to present a most riveting choral event with welcome assistance from the impeccable Ensemble Vocal de

Lausanne under its founder, Michel Corboz.

It has been quite a while since such an intriguing choral concert was presented in Israel. In both Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* the visiting vocal ensemble was at its musical best.

This is pure choral singing at its most excellent that does not try to focus on so called performance practice trends. Rather Corboz is interested first and foremost by the overall musical unity of the work and its performance and he blended the choral ensemble and the orchestra in a most unusual way.

It has been a while since the ICO played in such an exciting manner, suggesting that under the right hands and baton it can and does produce first-rate music. And in spite of the fact that some of the vocal soloists were not first rate, this was an evening to cherish.

The festive nature of both works was maintained throughout and the full house applauded with all its heart. Because this is exactly how choral music should sound, and unfortunately there is currently not even one local ensemble that can match them.

Tel Aviv Museum, January 2. Michael Ajzenstadt

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	WEEK	CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	3	8		SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#2	2	7		TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#3	1	8		OST	EVITA
#4	4	19		RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION
#5	5	5		SHLOMO ARTZI	OD ME AT
#6	9	4		NO DOUBT	TRAGIC KINGDOM
#7	7	13		SIMPLY RED	GREATEST HITS
#8	18	41		RITA	COLLECTION
#9	8	6		ENIGMA	LE ROI EST MORT
#10	12	35		GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#11	23	2		VIA	BEST OF THE BEST OF '96
#12	19	6		JULIO IGLESIAS	TANGO
#13	RE	1		VAIR ROZENBLUM	GESHEM ACHARON
#14	6	7		VIA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#15	10	42		SHLOMO ARTZI	TWO

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week



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• Brahms - The German Requiem, Opus 45
Binyanei Ha'ooma, JICC, Wed. January 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Lorin Maazel, Conductor

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, ISA
The Symphony Orchestra of the Bavarian Radio
The Leipzig Radio Choir, The Stuttgart Radio Choir
The Choir of the Bavarian Radio & Soloists
• Schubert - Mass in G Major, D. 167
(Conductor: Michael Gilsen)

• Penderecki - "The Seven Gates of Jerusalem"

Binyanei Ha'ooma, JICC, Thurs. January 9 at 8:00 p.m.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Japanese firm
mulls
\$300m.
Negev
cement
plant

ROBERT DANIEL

MARUBENI Corp. may invest as much as \$300 million to build a cement plant in the Negev, said David Baruch, an official with the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Marubeni, a Tokyo-based trading company with interests in metals, minerals, building materials and commodities, recently sent a group of executives to look into such a project, said Baruch, who is director-general of the ministry's investment center.

Marubeni is working with Patuach Mashaveh Energia Ltd., known as Pama, a government-controlled company that develops oil-shale resources, Baruch said.

A Marubeni spokesman in Tokyo confirmed that the project is under consideration, but said Marubeni hasn't started a feasibility study yet.

Satoshi Kikuchi, the Marubeni spokesman, said the government probably made the announcement of the possible investment because Israel is trying to attract foreign investors.

Baruch said the Marubeni executives traveled here to talk to the government. "They want to hear the alternatives of getting support from the government according to the investment law," he said.

The government provides grants of as much as 20 percent of the value of a foreign company's investment here.

The plant would be located in the Rotem area, east of Dimona, Baruch said.

There are deposits of oil-shale in the area. One alternative for Marubeni is to use oil derived from shale in the cement-production process, Baruch said.

Cement production here is currently in the hands of Nesher, which is owned by Koor Industries and Clal Israel. The company has a monopoly on production.

Koor Chief Executive Benjamin Gaon has said Nesher is negotiating with the top four cement companies worldwide - Cemex, Holderbank, Italcementi, and Lafarge - to sell a 20% stake.

A spokesman for Nesher declined comment on the Marubeni plans.

Koor shares were down 1% on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday. Clal's series 1 shares were up 2.25%.

(Bloomberg)

Budget deficit at NIS14.4 billion,
nearly double projection

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE national budget deficit for 1996 totaled NIS 14.4 billion, which is 4.7 percent of gross domestic product and nearly twice what the previous government said it would be, according to preliminary estimates released yesterday by the Treasury.

The original plans for fiscal 1996 assumed a deficit of NIS 7.6b., in line with the 2.5% of GDP prescribed by the Knesset and the Bank of Israel.

The deficit would have reached an even higher 4.8% of GDP, if it weren't for the fact that US aid arrived late - in the early part of last year, rather than in the previous year. That delay stemmed from the temporary shutdown of the US government in the wake of struggles

over US fiscal policy.

In all, government expenditures last year totaled NIS 134b. The final deterioration in the budget deficit came in December, when the government's domestic expenditures exceeded revenues by NIS 4.4b.

The Treasury said that in itself the government's overall spending last year was in line with original planning, but the revenues consistently failed to meet the planners' estimates.

The Treasury's erroneous forecast of national revenues is attributed in part to the economic slowdown in the wake of last year's terrorist bombings in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and the

drop in tourism traffic that followed them. Other causes of the slowdown, reflected in a transition from a 7% growth rate to 4.4%, were the relative relaxation in the pace of immigration from the former Soviet Union, and subsequently eased pressures on the housing market.

Fiscal 1997's deficit target has been set at 2.8% of GDP, a goal that led Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor to trim the budget by NIS 7b.

The budget, passed by the Knesset last week, includes new taxation aimed at financing the costs of the cuts. Experts are skeptical the new deficit goal will be met, since it too might prove to have been too heavily dependent on taxation.

Swiss bank shares weakened
by Jewish boycott fears

Credit Suisse fell by 2%, UBS by 1.8; Banks reject threat

ZURICH (Reuters) - Swiss banks yesterday rejected threats of a boycott from Jewish groups, saying any such action would obstruct joint efforts to find the lost bank accounts of Holocaust victims.

Swiss financial shares plunged. The Swiss Bankers Association said it hoped Jewish groups would remain a constructive partner in a joint commission set up last May to oversee the hunt for dormant accounts left by Jews murdered by the Nazis.

"The Swiss Bankers Association does not regard sanction and boycott threats or ultimatums as an appropriate means to foster the work already started," the umbrella organization said in a statement.

Bank stocks came under pressure as the dispute escalated between Jewish groups and Swiss banks over how much money may have been left in Swiss accounts by Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Jewish groups have reacted angrily to accusations by the outgoing Swiss president last week that threats of a boycott were "blackmail."

In Swiss stock trading, the broad SPI index fell 5.92 points to 2,506.22, and the blue-chip SMI was down 16.3 to 3,923.8.

Shares in Union Bank of Switzerland fell 21 Swiss francs to 1,149. CS Holdings, which owns Credit Suisse, shed 2.75 to 133.75. Swiss Bank Group fell 1.50 to 252.40.

In percentage terms, bearer shares in UBS, the country's biggest bank, fell 1.8 percent.

Raytheon to buy Texas Instruments unit

BOSTON (Reuters) - Raytheon Co. said yesterday it has a definitive agreement to buy Texas Instruments Inc.'s missile and defense business for \$2.95 billion in cash.

The acquisition - Raytheon's third in the past two years - strengthens

the company's leadership in defense electronics as it seeks to grow further in an industry that has been consolidating for four years since the end of the Cold War.

The deal is expected to increase Raytheon's annualized defense electronics sales to \$8b. and its current defense electronics backlog to \$9.3b., boosting total annualized revenues to about \$15b.

"We have consistently said that we will remain a top-tier player in the defense industry," Raytheon Chairman and Chief Executive Dennis Picard said in a statement. "We are buying a growing, world-

class business that competes successfully in several key defense electronics markets where Raytheon is not a significant participant."

Raytheon and Texas Instruments' Defense Systems & Electronics Group both manufacture missiles, sensors and seekers and aircraft and ground radar, but do not overlap, analysts said.

Texas Instruments' defense unit, based in Lewisville, Texas, supplies advanced defense systems, including precision-guided weapons, strike missiles, airborne radar, night vision systems and electronic warfare systems.

Mutual
funds
lose 16%
in '96

Jerusalem Post Staff

MUTUAL fund assets shrank to NIS 13.55 billion, compared with NIS 16.1b. in the previous year, down 15.8 percent in nominal values, the Meitav mutual fund consulting firm reported yesterday.

In 1996 the mutual funds suffered from a wave of redemptions, particularly in the first half of the year in reaction to a drop in prices on the share and bond market.

Redemptions reached NIS 4.1b. last year, despite the funds' registration of nominal yields of 6.5%. In 1995 the funds suffered redemptions of NIS 4.75b. while in 1994, redemptions reached NIS 11.2b. Total redemptions in the last three years amounted to NIS 20b.

Mutual fund assets increased 3.4% in December to NIS 13.55b., compared with NIS 13.1b. at the end of the previous month. In the reported period redemptions reached NIS 172m., including NIS 104m. from the corporate and government bonds. Meitav attributed the rise in assets to the funds' positive yields and the public's investment in funds specializing in the more risky Karam share market.

Chambers of
Commerce
re-elect
Gillerman

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DAN Gillerman was re-elected to a third term as president of the Association of Chambers of Commerce on Sunday, defeating challenger Avner Giladi.

The non-profit, non-political organization represents the interests of the business sector, including exporters and importers, wholesale and retail merchants, and manufacturers. It helps foster global commercial links and acts as a clearing house for essential data on the local business community.

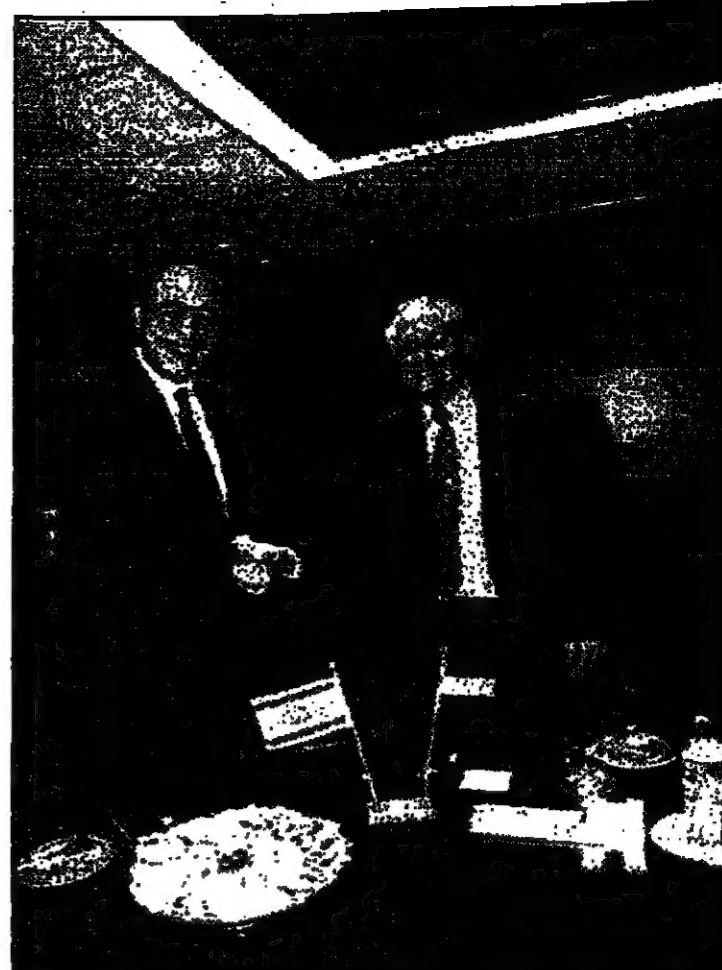
As part of his campaign, which focused on "doing," Gillerman listed 20 targets for the year 2000. He intends to improve efficiency and services to members, establish funds to assist members, and create business opportunities.

In addition, the chamber intends to solve the problem of returned checks and establishment of a marketing and trade network. It will also fight to reduce interest rates, cancel the Standards Institute's monopoly, and encourage privatization.

The board determines policy, while the council, headed by the president, supervises its implementation.

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Dr. Ibrahim Kamel, chairman of the Cairo-based Kamel group (left) shakes hands with Koor Industries CEO Benjamin Gaon after their meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Egyptian tycoon
to buy Koor shares

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Cairo-based Kato group intends to purchase shares in Koor Industries as a measure to encourage business people here and in Egypt to engage in serious business dialogue, chairman of the board Dr. Ibrahim Kamel said yesterday.

Kamel ranks prominently among Egypt's business elite and, according to his host, Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon, has close connections in Cairo's corridors of power.

Kato is involved in a wide range of activities, from trade and banking to real estate, insurance, tourism and aviation.

Kamel arrived on a 24-hour visit at Gaon's invitation, and toured Tadmor facilities and the Nesher cement factory.

"I will buy some shares [in Koor] simply to illustrate that the time really has come for the business people from both countries to really engage in very serious dialogue to ensure that we are aiding our politicians to believe in peace and to make the necessary steps towards a comprehensive and final peace in the region," Kamel said.

He refused to specify the quanti-

ty of shares his group intends to purchase.

Other business opportunities discussed were the possibility that Nesher will take part in the Egyptian government's privatization of cement companies, he said. They also discussed establishing joint ventures in the high-tech field in Egypt between Tadmor and Kato.

According to Kamel, business relationships between Israel and Egypt have not yet progressed because there is not peace in the region.

"Once we have a Palestinian-Israeli agreement implemented, I think the region will begin to witness and enjoy and entertain a new era," Kamel said, adding that the real fruits of peace are translated into economic cooperation.

Today, Kamel is to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy and other government officials.

Accompanying Kamel on the visit are Dr. Taher Helmi, cofounder of Baker and McKenzie's law offices in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and banker Mansour al-Tarzi.

Lebanon president calls for foreign cash

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Lebanese President Elias Hrawi urged Arab and other countries yesterday to give more aid to Lebanon and increase investment in the country.

"We beseech the brothers and friends for more support and investment here because hastening Lebanon's revival supports the stability of the whole region," Hrawi said in his annual address to foreign diplomats.

Hrawi said the "Friends of Lebanon" meeting of donor nations in Washington last month, which pledged some \$3.2 billion in aid, reflected international interest in Lebanon and its regional and international importance.

Some Lebanese officials state privately that the conference only brought pledges of \$170 million in extra commitments from donor nations, and the rest had already been committed.

Hrawi said the government gave guarantees to capital invested there and was careful to maintain a free economy and safeguard the country's legendary banking secrecy law.

"We are keen to keep a free economy and we adhere to banking secrecy in addition to the guarantees from the government to invested capital, its freedom of movement and returns," Hrawi said.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.1.97)

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Currency basket	3.8525	3.8525	3.8525	3.8187
U.S. dollar	3.2220	3.2720	3.18	3.2470
German mark	2.0575	2.0907	2.02	2.0722
Pound sterling	5.4445	5.5324	5.35	5.4874
French franc	0.0083	0.0083	0.0083	0.0083
Japanese yen (100)	2.7823	0.0192	0.0192	0.0192
Dutch florin	1.8334	1.8630	1.80	1.8464
Swiss franc	2.3743	2.4128	2.35	2.3947
Norwegian krone	0.4697	0.4702	0.45	0.4586
Danish krone	0.4676	0.5057	0.45	0.5045
Finland mark	0.5388	0.5473	0.52	0.5428
Canadian dollar	0.6868	0.6977	0.67	0.6916
Australian dollar	2.3524	2.3904	2.31	2.3674
S. African rand	0.6829	0.6841	0.67	0.6814
Belgian franc (10)	0.9987	1.0148	0.98	0.9903
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9248	2.9720	2.87	2.9268
Italian lire (1,000)	2.0620	2.1258	2.05	2.1069
Jordanian dinar	4.4850	4.7800	4.48	4.5845
Egyptian pound	0.9200	1.0000	0.92	1.0000
Irish punt	3.9892	4.0536	3.98	4.0188
Spanish peseta (100)	5.3708	5.4575	5.27	5.4073
	2.4454	2.4849	2.40	2.4640

*These rates vary according to bank. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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South Africa wins second Test

CAPE TOWN (AP) — South Africa took just over 46 overs on the final day yesterday to win the second Test against India by 282 runs.

South Africa dismissed India for 144 in the second innings. The win, following the 328-run victory in Durban, clinched the best-of-three series with one still to play.

Clinching the series was sweet revenge for South Africa, which was beaten 2-1 in a three-Test series in India last year.

India needed 427 in 118 overs to win but started badly in the final session of the fourth day and ended with 52 for three. Everything then depended on their two star batsmen, Sachin Tendulkar and Mohammad Azharuddin, both of whom scored centuries in the first innings.

But South Africa, behind solid bowling and fielding remained firmly in control. The team began the Test scoring 529 for seven declared in the first innings, a record since returning from isolation, off the bats of centuries Gary Kirsten, Brian McMillan and Lance Klusener.

India replied with 359, its top scorers being Tendulkar and Azharuddin. With a lead of 170, South Africa rammed home the advantage, scoring 256 for six declared. McMillan again was the

top scorer with 59 and ended by being voted man of the match.

Resuming at 52 for three, India lost Tendulkar off the fourth over of the day. McMillan pitched one on middle and off, and Tendulkar, going for the pull, struck the ball on the bottom of the bat, sending it skyward towards mid-on. Klusener, fielding in that position, ran about 10 meters before catching it.

In the next over from Donald, with the score 61 for four, Azharuddin, who along with Tendulkar had scored a century in the first innings, flashed at the speedster's third ball, and edged the ball to Andrew Hudson fielding at third slip.

Saurov Ganguly and V.V.S. Laxman tried to steady the Indian attack and advanced the score to 87, sharing the second highest partnership of the innings — 26 — when Ganguly tried to cut the ball and got a thick edge where McMillan took an easy catch at second slip off the bowling of Shaun Pollock.

At lunch with a score of 110 for six, India looked down and out. After lunch the team added just five runs before Anil Kumble, who had helped Laxman put on 28 runs for the seventh wicket, decided to go on the drive in the second over of the session but got



SWEET VICTORY — South African bowler Allan Donald celebrates the dismissal of India's Dadda Ganesh for 1 on the final day of the Test match.

a bottom edge to a Paul Adams delivery, and wicketkeeper Dave Richardson took the catch behind.

In the next over, bowled by Donald, Dadda Ganesh, surprisingly sent in ahead of Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad,

was bowled for one, getting an inside edge and playing on to his stumps after attempting a drive.

Prasad, who came in at No. 10 because of an injury to Srinath, hit two boundaries en route to his Test top score of 15. But it was

only a matter of time before he was out, giving Richardson the first stumping of his four-year test career. The bowler was Adams.

India has a chance to regroup before the third Test commences in Johannesburg on January 16.

New FA director ready to overhaul English soccer

LONDON (Reuters) — Former Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson accepted the job of reshaping English soccer yesterday but warned the national side would have to wait until well into the 21st century to reap the benefits.

Wilkinson, 53, was confirmed as the Football Association's new technical director on a four-year contract as part of an overdue shake-up of the country's playing structure.

He will work in conjunction with national manager Glenn Hoddle, top Premier League managers and coaches at grass-roots level with the aim of encouraging home-grown talent and raising playing and coaching standards.

"If I could wave a magic wand I would give the best kids the best coaches and give the coaches more time to work with them," said Wilkinson. "The future of soccer in this country is with the kids and that is where I hope I will be spending most of my time."

"My job is to work with the Football Association as an agent of change, but it's not a one-man crusade. Change will only occur if I have the co-operation of everyone."

"Goodwill will not be enough. Legislation will have to be passed. If it were possible for me to change standards overnight, I'm sure the FA would have thought of it a lot earlier."

The FA had looked abroad to fill the post, but eventually went for Wilkinson, an ex-teacher who has played and managed at all levels of the English game and guided Leeds to the league title in 1991-92.

His record since then has been

modest, prompting his exit from Leeds earlier this season, and, to some, the FA may have made the mistake of ordering a continental dish from a chef whose speciality is roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

Wilkinson's appointment, though, was immediately welcomed by several important figures within the English game, currently awash with imported talent in the wake of the Bosman verdict.

"It's the experience he brings. He's seen all the peaks and troughs of English football," said Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

"I'll expect his phone calls and his involvement. If I've got a moan, I know I'll get a straight answer and an explanation, even though it might be a long one."

Players' union representative Gordon Taylor called it "a very significant day" for English soccer and suggested Wilkinson's main priority should be "teaching the teachers."

"We've fallen behind in coaching standards which is why we have spent a six-figure sum researching what other countries do," said Taylor. "They also clearly spend more time on the training and development of young players than we do."

Wilkinson is among those convinced English players of all ages are forced to play far too many matches, but otherwise insists he is starting with "a blank piece of paper."

"One of the things I've realized is that no matter how open-minded you think you are, you can be more open-minded. We have to maximize the talent we have no doubt we still produce."

NHL at midseason: Flyers flying

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Rangers and Pittsburgh Penguins are both playing at a high level, but can you beat the Philadelphia Flyers?

No team in the NHL has been able to do that since November 27 when the Flyers lost 4-1 to the New York Islanders. Since then, they have been on a 16-game unbeaten streak (13-3-0, W-D-L), including Saturday night's 4-4 tie at Colorado.

The Flyers' streak is the most dramatic team story in the NHL as the league reaches the season's midpoint today.

"I can't say what I expected (but) we are pleased," Flyers coach Terry Murray said after Saturday night's draw between the conference leaders.

The Flyers have been playing exceptionally well since the return of Eric Lindros. The team captain has been in the lineup for 18 games following his absence from an injury that originated in the pre-season World Cup of Hockey tournament.

"We missed him," Flyers defenseman Eric Desjardins said. "With him out of the lineup, it was

tough."

With their recent surge, the Flyers have taken the lead in the Atlantic Division from the Florida Panthers, who had held the top spot since the start of the season.

"The Flyers are natural goal scorers and they are not shy about throwing their bodies around," Colorado's Mike Keane said.

In some ways, the Flyers' streak has been surprising to Murray.

"How do you know what to expect?" he said. "The league is so close. We stumbled coming out of the gate. We lost seven or eight one-goal games in the first month or so of the season."

"You have to learn to win those close games and learn how to tie a game like this."

The defending Stanley Cup champion Avalanche, meanwhile, are tied with the Flyers for the highest point total with 54 despite a spate of injuries to key players.

"When you lose players like Peter Forsberg, Scott Young and Claude Lemieux for an extended period of time, you can't expect to keep winning, but we have," coach Marc Crawford said of his Pacific Division-leading Avalanche. "This team has found ways to win with the players it's had."

The same thing could be said for the Rangers and Penguins. With their 6-4 victory over Ottawa Saturday night, the Rangers improved to 15-1-3 in their last 19 games. The Penguins were on a

16-3-3 tear since an 8-3 home loss to the Rangers November 16.

"We're scoring goals and that's taking pressure off our defense," Rangers captain Mark Messier said of the team's turnaround after a 7-4-13 start. "We're scoring five, six goals a game now and that gives you room for error."

Early in the season, we were making mistakes and we were not scoring."

Among the keys to the Rangers' recent success has been the play of goaltender Mike Richter and the line centered by Wayne Gretzky. Richter is on a career-high 15-game unbeaten streak (14-1-0). Gretzky, in a season-long battle for the NHL scoring lead, set up two goals apiece for Luc Robitaille and Niklas Sundstrom on Saturday night.

"Anytime you stick with the same guys, you read each other better," Robitaille said. "I know Wayne Gretzky is behind the net, so you know you've got to get open, and so does Sunny. If we keep working and getting open, Gretzky is going to find whoever is open ... and that's what we're doing."

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	25	12	4	54	133	100
Florida	21	10	8	51	118	92
N.Y. Rangers	22	18	5	49	151	120
New Jersey	21	15	3	45	105	101
Washington	17	20	4	38	109	110
N.Y. Islanders	12	18	8	32	99	113
Tampa Bay	13	20	3	31	109	124

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	21	15	4	46	121	106
Pittsburgh	21	15	4	46	148	127
Hartford	17	15	7	41	118	126
Montreal	15	18	8	38	151	140
Boston	15	18	6	36	113	136
Ottawa	12	19	7	31	104	115

The Penguins have been on fire with the hottest line in the NHL: Mario Lemieux, Jaromir Jagr and Ron Francis. The trio has accounted for 49 goals in 20 games since it debuted November 22 and for 176 points since the start of the season.

"We complement each other in the offensive zone," Lemieux said. "We're trying to read each other on the ice and it's been going well the last two or three weeks."

Lemieux has said this is his last season and is playing like he wants to make it one of his best.

If there have been any major surprises so far, it has been the play of the Dallas Stars, who lead the Central Division over Detroit. The Stars did not qualify for the playoffs last season, while the Red Wings finished with a record number of victories.

Scoring Leaders

Player	GP	G	A	Pts	PM
Lemieux, Phil	39	29	38	67	28
Jagr, Petr	40	35	27	62	36
Gretzky, Wayne	43	18	43	59	10
Sundin, Mats	41	29	29	58	22
Sako, Col	40	15	40	55	20
Selanne, Jari	39	21	28	49	16
Francis, Ron	41	25	20	45	34
Messier, Mark	37	23	21	44	53
Yzerman, Steve	38	11	33	44	28
Shanahan, Dale	38	20	23	43	10
Amonte, Phil	42	24	19	43	20
Forsberg, Col	31	12	31	43	20
Teschuk, Phil	40	24	18	42	29
Palfy, Nyhl	38	23	19	42	31
Reed, Ron	41	17	25	42	36
Sanderson, Har	39	24	17	41	19
Bondra, Vesa	38	23	18	41	47
Laeth, Vyr	43	9	32	41	20
Mellorby, Ron	40	19	22	41	79
Savard, Ron	40	14	25	39	31
Kovalenko, Edm	40	20	18	38	36
Nachved, Pat	38	18	20	38	30
Mellorby, Ron	40	19	22	41	79
Kohr, Ron	30	13	25	38	20
Ozolski, Col	40	13	25	38	36

Bruins' Kennedy: I was molested

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP) — Boston Bruins player Sheldon Kennedy, long silent about sexual abuse by a former junior hockey coach, has come forward with the story to USA Today in hopes it will help others.

Kennedy told the newspaper in an interview published yesterday that he felt relief Thursday when Graham James was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in a Canadian prison for sexually assaulting Kennedy and another former Swift Current Broncos player, who wants to remain unidentified.

"I feel like I am 10 months old inside a 27-year-old body," said Kennedy, who also has talked to

three Canadian newspapers and ESPN.

"You are learning to live again. You are learning to have friends. You have to learn to love and relax. I can't remember the last time I relaxed totally."

Kennedy initiated the criminal investigation in September, saying he was sexually assaulted more than 300 times. James, who resigned in September as coach of the Calgary Hitmen after the investigation became public, admitted two counts of sexual assault between 1984 and 1994.

Kennedy, who said he 14 when first assaulted, told USA Today that he thought of suicide, but decided he couldn't "take the easy way out."

Rerouted Ethiopians reach Israel for Tiberias Marathon

THE five-person favored Ethiopian contingent to tomorrow's Tiberias Marathon will be at the starting line. After they missed their connecting flight to Cairo on Sunday, the Foreign Ministry stepped in yesterday and helped to re-route four of the runners via Kenya with the fifth arriving via Greece. They are due in Israel today.

Gamdo Kabbah, Ahmed Hussein (three-time winner in Tiberias) and Alamut Bakala, Ethiopia's junior female champion are some of the wandering travelers.

The first arrivals are South Africa's Alagin Mukala whose best time is 2:15, just outside the course record of 2:14.02 and Russia's Vladimir Narava (2:14.58).

Dov Kremer, past national marathon champion, has decided to change his entry from the 12-kilometer race to take on the full marathon.

Competing in the 12km race will be 33-year-old Jamal Balli, the "peace contestant" from Paris who is on a UNESCO-sponsored 16,000-kilometer run, which has seen him run in 10 countries already. Three hundred entries have already been received for the race, including 11 Germans and five Hungarian athletes.

TENNIS: Our tennis players Down Under preparing for the Australian Open next week had little luck in their warm-up tournaments. Anna Smashnova lost in the final qualifying rounds of the Auckland tournament while Eyal Erlich went down to Marcos Andruska in the first qualifying

LOCAL SCENE

HEATHER CHAIT

round in Adelaide.

In the first ATP Tour rankings for 1997 issued yesterday, Eyal Ram is at 154, Eyal Erlich (252), Oren Motevassel (260), Nir Welgreen (264), Noam Behr (272) and Raviv Weidenfeld (273).

BILLIARDS: The national billiards championships showed that this sport is not for oversized old men with cigars protruding from their mouths. Twenty-one-year-old Roi Fernandez won his second consecutive title, beating 18-year-old Zvi Zion. Third place went to Guri Levy. Fifty entrants competed in the tournament held at the Lincoln Club in Tel Aviv, the biggest club in the Middle East with 28 tables.

SWIMMING: A golden start to the season for Olympic swimmer Yoav Bruck who won the gold medal in the 100 meters freestyle event (short pool) at a meet in Spain. Bruck's winning time was 50:29. He then added a silver medal also in the 100m butterfly, finishing second in 56:65.

TENPIN BOWLING: You were wrong if you thought this sport was just for fun — there are over 3,000 serious players in Israel and 14 clubs compete weekly in a national league and second division. Yossi Siron from Ramat Gan is currently leading the individual men's league with Lisa Shalom, also from Ramat Gan, first among the women. National teams will enter the European Youth

Championships in March and the European Group Championships in June before playing in the Maccabiah in July. To learn the sport, to join in the league or for more information, call 050-241234.

GOLF: It was a day of golf for the champions, the young and not so young, at Caesarea on Saturday. The winners of the individual stroke competitions, club championships, Israel Open, individual matchplay tournament and the Sam Sharov individual championship met for the 1996 Champions of the tour divisions.

Cyril Kaufman won the A division with 70, Moshe Namdar took the B with 72, 16-year-old Uri Shani won the C with 71 and Shlomo Ferman won the D division with the day's best of 67.

Some of the winners did not stop there. In the monthly medal competition, Kaufman won the A division, repeating his score of 70 and Namdar took the B with 72. Winning the C and D divisions were Kobi Rogovin with 74 and Hava Shehavi with 69 respectively.

SOCCER: Jerusalem's soccer and basketball teams will swap roles on January 26 when the players will try each other's sport. They are not really considering career changes, it's a charity stunt to raise money to buy guide dogs for the blind.

Meanwhile, first it was on, then she went with him to Cannes, then nine months ago it was off and recently Tal Babin and his girlfriend Yafit Cherbo announced plans to marry soon. Must be the path of true love...

ATP rankings

Leading rankings issued by the ATP Tour yesterday:

1. Pete Sampras (US) 4,866 points
2. Michael Chang (US) 3,597
3. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 3,492
4. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 3,480
5. Thomas Muster (Austria) 3,125
6. Boris Becker (Germany) 2,944
7. Richard Krajicek (NED) 2,380
8. Andre Agassi (US) 2,364
9. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa) 2,149
10. Marcelo Pietrangeli (Chile) 2,114
11. Todd Martin (US) 2,039
12. Alberto Costa (Spain) 1,757
13. Stefan Edberg (Sweden) 1,567
14. Jim Courier (US) 1,561
15. Magnus Gustafsson (SWE) 1,537
16. Jan Siemerink (HOL) 1,530
17. Felix Mantilla (Spain) 1,505
18. Michael Stich (Germany) 1,491
19. Alberto Berasategui (Spain) 1,477

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Survey: 47% of secular have negative image of religious

HAIM SHAPIRO

IF a few people don't like you, you can put it down to prejudice; but if a large numbers of secular Jews say they don't like religious Jews, it's time for the religious community to take stock, according to Dr. Daniel Tropper, director of Geshet, an institute devoted to fostering understanding between the religious and secular publics.

According to a survey, carried out by Modiin Ezrahi for Geshet, 47.3 percent of those who define themselves as secular have negative associations concerning the religious, while only 28.5% of the religious have negative feelings about the secular.

"When you have stereotypes as big as this, the religious have to stop and ask themselves what is wrong. Something in the religious behavior in our society invites this negative attitude and we have to examine it, just as the secular have to examine what, on their part, is the reason for this situation," said Tropper.

The religious, he said, have to honestly face the question of what arouses such antagonism among their secular counterparts. In fact, he added, the degree of self-criticism among the religious public is very low. When asked about themselves, only 2.3% of the religious

had any self-criticism, while 12% of the secular expressed critical statements about themselves.

Most of the negative attitudes about the religious relate to political activity by the religious. Some of the reasons expressed include religious coercion, attitudes of superiority, taking over the state, causing hatred between Jews, lack of separation of religion and state, undue influence in politics, and a fear that religious influence endangers democracy. Only 1.7% spoke of yeshiva students not serving in the army.

When the religious express negative views about the secular, they characterize them as assimilationist and lacking values and faith, materialist, imposing their will, inciting, shallow, and having a bad education.

Tropper also said those who define themselves as traditional are more critical of the religious than of the secular, although before the survey he would have assumed the opposite.

Some 36% expressed critical views of the religious, while 23% were critical of the secular. The traditional who were critical of the religious spoke of religious coercion, attitudes of superiority, and fomenting hatred among Jews.



Former Maccabi Tel Aviv star Aulcie Perry is welcomed by Burger Ranch director Ron Lapid at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday on his return to start a new career at Burger Ranch.

Aulcie Perry returns to run Burger Ranch franchise

HAIM SHAPIRO

AULCIE Perry is back, but this time the famed former Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball star is to be flipping burgers rather than dunking, and the baskets he sees are likely to be those which lower chips into oil.

Perry, who played for Maccabi during the 1970s and early '80s, has been a local hero. However, after he returned to the US in 1987, he served a prison sentence on drug-related charges. He arrived here yesterday morning to take over a Burger Ranch franchise, which a

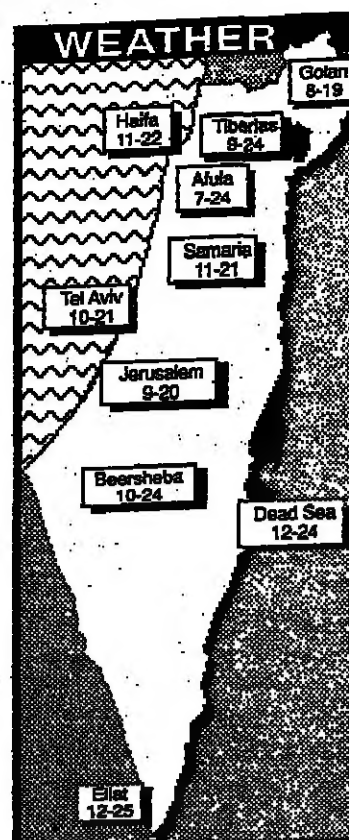
group of friends and admirers acquired for him.

According to Ron Lapid, director of Burger Ranch, it costs between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to set up a restaurant to the point where the first hamburger is flipped. Ten people have contributed funds to open a franchise for Perry, he said.

Although many of them chose to remain anonymous, the contributors include Udi

Recanati, of the banking family; Nathan Nissani, active in food manufacturing; and Perry's former Maccabi teammate, attorney Shmuel Sussman.

Like other foreign players at the time, Perry converted to Judaism under the name Elisha Ben-Avraham. He was also the long-time companion of super-model Tami Ben-Ami. The two had an emotional meeting when Perry returned to visit her in 1993, shortly before she died of cancer.



Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	PRECIP.	CLD.
Amsterdam	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Berlin	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Buenos Aires	20	24	10	0	clear
Chicago	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Geneva	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Hong Kong	14	18	10	0	clear
London	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Los Angeles	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Madrid	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Manila	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Montreal	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Moscow	10	14	10	0	cloudy
New York	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Paris	10	14	10	0	cloudy
Rome	10	14	10	0	cloudy

Winning cards

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, the jack of hearts, the eight of diamonds, and the jack of clubs.

China hopes Israel won't open diplomatic ties with Taiwan

GREER FAY CASHMAN

CHINESE diplomatic visitors this week said they hoped Israel would not establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Chi Huaiyuan, who heads the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, this week told a meeting of the Council for the Promotion of Israel-China Relations he was glad that Israel nixed a private visit here by Taiwanese President Lee Teng Hui. "We hope Israel will not enter into official relations with

Taiwan," Huaiyuan said. Huaiyuan and a delegation of officials that includes Lin Zhen, China's first ambassador to Israel, are here at the invitation of Council chairman Shaul Eisenberg to celebrate the fifth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and China. Huaiyuan spoke to a distinguished crowd that included Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky, former president

Chaim Herzog, former prime minister Shimon Peres, former foreign minister Moshe Arens, Israel's former ambassador to China Zev Sufot and leaders of the business community.

Although Israel's formal ties with China are comparatively recent, there have been many indirect contacts, said Peres, who also assumed the honorary presidency of the council at the meeting. Some 30 years ago, Peres said, he acted as a courier for messages between China's communist leader Mao Zedong and prime minister David Ben-Gurion, who believed that China would one day be a superpower.

Peres expressed his own conviction that China will be a superpower before the end of the century, saying that many people had thought of China as "a lost case." Yet in a period of 50 years, he said, China built up its economy without any external aid.

"Whoever says we can't correct things in the Middle East," Peres said, "I say: look at China."

Sharansky and Peres paid tribute to council chairman Eisenberg, who found a haven in Shanghai when he fled Nazi Germany, started doing business with China in 1978. His company has already built 280 factories there and he also plans to build a synagogue in Beijing.

Lieberman and Kirschenbaum face off before State Control Committee

EVELYN GORDON

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Prime Minister's Office Avigdor Lieberman and Israel Broadcasting Authority Director-General Mordechai Kirschenbaum exchanged harsh words in the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday, while MKs lined up behind the two according to their political affiliation.

The committee was discussing charges that Lieberman misled the cabinet during its discussion on the IBA budget by submitting inaccurate summaries of three full-length reports: the Livni report; a report by IBA's comptroller; and a report by an outside consulting firm. Opposition MKs, led by committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz), charge that Lieberman put things in his summaries that did not exist in the original reports, such as a statement that Kirschenbaum "is not capable, personally or professionally, of resuscitating the IBA," and a reference to Kirschenbaum's poor relations with the IBA's chairman.

Lieberman lashed out at opposition MKs during the meeting, saying they were conducting "a planned crusade" against him, up to and including police complaints. (Labor MK Eitan Cabel filed a complaint with the police last week over the IBA summaries.) Lieberman said he stands behind every word in his summaries, and would even consider filing a complaint with the police for slander.

The IBA's management, he added, is a "total failure" as far as administration is concerned. "[They] couldn't even manage a simple football pool," he said.

Kirschenbaum responded by saying Lieberman had deliberately doctored the original reports by taking things out of context, with the goal of encouraging staff cuts in the IBA's budget and bringing about changes in its management. Attorney Shimon Stein, the Prime Minister's

Office's legal advisor, supported Lieberman's claim that the summaries were basically accurate, performing a comparison for the committee between the summaries and the original reports. While there were a few places where the summaries differed from the originals, he said, this is almost inevitable when one is trying to condense a thick report into a summary of a few pages.

Coalition MKs were convinced by the presentation, but opposition MKs continued to insist that the differences amounted to deliberate deception and demanded that State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat investigate the matter. Some of the coalition MKs insisted this was unnecessary, but others said they would support such a move as a way of laying the matter to rest.

Yair Hurwitz, director-general of Ben-Porat's office, said the office would examine the documents and decide whether or not the issue merited Ben-Porat's involvement.

Finance Committee declines to approve IBA budget

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday once again failed to approve the Israel Broadcasting Authority's 1997 budget, due to opposition from religious MKs.

Because of the stormy quality of the debate, not all the MKs who asked for speaking time had had a chance to talk by the end of the meeting, so Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) agreed to continue the discussion today. However, both coalition and opposition MKs said they doubted whether the discussion would actually end today.

According to Ravitz, the coalition has two main problems with the IBA. One was the question of poor administration: Last year, for instance, the

authority ran a NIS 40 million deficit, which, since it was unauthorized, violates the budget laws.

The other complaint, however, involved programming—specifically *The Cameri Quintet* satire program and comedian Gil Kofman. Religious MKs have been infuriated by the anti-religious tone of many of their sketches, and even non-religious coalition members, such as Silvan Shalom (Likud) and Michael Kleiner (Geshet), said they were angry over Sunday's Cameri Quintet sketch on the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel. Shalom termed this sketch "disgusting in the extreme." However, both

Shalom and Kleiner said they did not see this as a reason not to approve the budget.

"I have harsh criticism of the IBA, but I don't think we should speak with them via their pockets," Kleiner said.

The religious MKs, however, said they are unwilling to have their taxes fund programs offensive to them.

Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) suggested that the committee approve funding for only three months, during which time a sub-committee would be set up to monitor the IBA's progress on reforming both its management

and its programming.

The IBA opposes this idea, saying if the committee does not immediately approve a 7.2 percent increase in its fees, it will lose a month's collection and will not be able to make up the money.

Michael Eitan (Likud), meanwhile, said the IBA budget should be cut by NIS 200 million instead of NIS 20m. A NIS 650m. budget is far too big, he said.

The opposition attacked the coalition over its failure to approve the budget.

"They are making every effort not to approve the budget to apply political blackmail and perform censorship by money," said Ophir Pines (Labor).

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